

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

DNV BRINGS ATTENTION TO ALARMING SAFETY TRENDS AND AGEING FLEET

DNV's "Maritime Safety Trends 2014-2024" report revealed a 42% increase in maritime casualty incidents between 2018 and 2024, while the global fleet grew by just 10%. The main drivers are an ageing fleet and rising machinery damage/failure, which accounted for 60% of incidents in 2024, up from 38% a decade ago. Vessels over 25 years old were involved in 41% of incidents. The report also notes a 42% rise in fires and explosions, and a surge in war-related casualties. DNV urges the industry to improve maintenance, upgrade safety systems, and enhance crew training.

Source: [Here](#) 03 June 2025

UN WARNS OF DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST MARITIME PIRACY "BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE"

The UN has warned of a sharp rise in maritime piracy, with incidents up 47.5% in early 2025, threatening global trade and shipping routes. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged world powers to cooperate and uphold maritime law, citing attacks in the Red Sea, disruptions in the Black Sea, and climate challenges in the Panama Canal as major concerns. He emphasised that there can be no global security without maritime security, and called for decisive action before it is too late.

Source: [Here](#) 03 June 2025

DRYAD GLOBAL: PIRACY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA HAS SURGED BY 30%

Piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea have surged by 30% in 2025, highlighting persistent security challenges in the region. Recent attacks include the boarding of the cargo vessel *ORANGE FROST* near São Tomé and Príncipe, resulting in one crew member missing and presumed kidnapped, and a similar incident involving the *SEA PANTHER* off Nigeria. These events indicate a troubling trend of increased pirate activity and targeted equipment theft. Mariners are urged to adopt heightened security measures as Pirate Action Groups in the region become more sophisticated.

Source: [Here](#) 04 June 2025

INDIA'S COAST GUARD BATTLES BLAZE ON SINGAPORE-FLAGGED CONTAINER SHIP

A Singapore-flagged container ship, MV Wan Hai 503, caught fire about 78 nautical miles off India's Beypore Port on June 9, 2025. The Indian Coast Guard battled persistent fires and

explosions as the vessel listed 10 to 15 degrees. Eighteen of the 22 crew were rescued, while four were reported missing. Photos showed flames and thick smoke, and some containers were blown into the sea by the explosion. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore reported some crew injuries. Coast Guard vessels continued firefighting efforts alongside the burning ship.

Source: [Here](#) 10 June 2025

ISRAEL STRIKES YEMEN AFTER HOUTHİ MISSILE BARRAGE TARGETS AIRPORTS

Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes on Yemen after Houthi militants fired multiple ballistic missiles at Israeli airports and cities, including Ben Gurion Airport, injuring civilians and disrupting air travel. Israeli strikes targeted sites in Houthi-controlled Yemen, such as Sana'a International Airport and Hudaydah port, resulting in civilian casualties and damage to critical infrastructure. The escalation has intensified regional tensions and worsened Yemen's humanitarian crisis, with concerns about further suffering due to disrupted aid and essential imports.

Source: [Here](#) 10 June 2025

MARITIME FORCES

INDIA, EU, CARRY OUT A JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE ON JUNE 1

India and the European Union conducted a three-day joint naval exercise in the Indian Ocean from June 1 to 3, 2025. The drill involved Indian Navy ships and EU frigates—Italy's Antonio Marceglia and Spain's Reina Sofia—focusing on advanced counter-piracy operations, interoperability, tactical manoeuvres, and secure communications. The exercise simulated a piracy attack and hostage rescue, aiming to strengthen maritime security cooperation and operational coordination, following high-level diplomatic engagements earlier in the year.

Source: [Here](#) 01 June 2025

AUSTRALIA GIFTS PATROL BOAT TO STRENGTHEN MALDIVES' MARITIME SECURITY

Australia will gift a Guardian-class Patrol Boat to the Maldives, with delivery expected in 2026, to strengthen the Maldives' maritime security and ability to patrol its exclusive economic zone, combat illegal activities, and conduct search and rescue operations. Australia will also provide a multi-beam echo sounder for ocean mapping and work with Maldivian authorities on maintenance, reinforcing bilateral defence ties and supporting regional stability in the Indian Ocean.

Source: [Here](#) 02 June 2025

NAVY TO COMMISSION UP TO 10 WARSHIPS BY DECEMBER, LED BY FIRST ASW SHALLOW-WATER CRAFT 'ARNALA'

The Indian Navy will commission nine to ten warships between June and December 2025, significantly expanding its fleet. The first, the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow-Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Arnala, will be commissioned on June 18 in Visakhapatnam. Most vessels are indigenously built, including additional ASW-SWC ships, a Talwar-class frigate (*INS Tama*), a Nilgiri-class frigate, a diving support ship, and a large survey vessel. Arnala is the first of sixteen ASW-SWC ships designed for anti-submarine operations, subsurface surveillance, and search-and-rescue missions.

Source: [Here](#) 07 June 2025

INDIA, MONGOLIA HOLD JOINT MILITARY DRILL 'NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025' IN ULAANBAATAR

The 17th edition of the joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2025' between India and Mongolia is underway at the Special Forces Training Centre in Ulaanbaatar from May 31 to June 13, 2025. The drill focuses on non-conventional operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate, aiming to enhance operational capabilities, exchange best practices in counter-terrorism and precision sniping, and improve interoperability to address contemporary security challenges.

Source: [Here](#) 08 June 2025

INDIA STARTS CONSTRUCTION OF ITS LARGEST AUV

Krishna Defence and Allied Industries has begun constructing India's largest and most advanced Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). This project, designed by the Indian Navy and built in collaboration with Rekise Marine and SAIL, marks a major step in India's underwater autonomy and defence capabilities. The initiative is seen as pivotal for technical and strategic independence, with the AUV set to enhance the country's maritime security and indigenous defence innovation.

Source: [Here](#) 15 June 2025

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

MARITIME POWERUP: INDIA AND NORWAY JOIN FORCES TO STRENGTHEN GREEN MARITIME FUTURE WITH ELECTRIC FERRIES

India and Norway have agreed to deepen cooperation on green maritime technologies, with a focus on electrifying ferry systems and advancing sustainable shipping. During meetings at Nor-Shipping 2025 in Oslo, both countries committed to sharing expertise, particularly Norway's experience in ferry electrification, and to collaborating on manufacturing electric ferries and vessels. The partnership also covers smart logistics, digital port ecosystems, alternative fuels, ship recycling, seafarer training, and joint ventures in ocean renewable energy. These efforts aim to support decarbonisation, efficient transport, and the growth of a sustainable Blue Economy for both nations.

Source: [Here](#) 05 June 2025

INDIA PLANS TO BUILD POLAR RESEARCH VESSEL

India's Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and Kongsberg Maritime have signed an MoU to explore the design of India's first indigenous polar research vessel. The ship will support climate research, oceanography, and polar logistics, using advanced integrated technologies for safe and sustainable operations in polar regions. This marks a significant step in strengthening India's polar research capabilities and scientific presence in the Arctic and Antarctic, though the project remains in the exploratory phase.

Source: [Here](#) 05 June 2025

GAIL LNG TERMINAL RECEIVES FIRST CARGO DURING MONSOON SEASON

GAIL (India) Limited's Dabhol LNG terminal in Maharashtra received its first LNG cargo during the monsoon season on June 2, 2025, after completing a new breakwater. This allows the terminal to operate year-round, ending previous monsoon shutdowns. GAIL plans to increase the terminal's capacity from 5 to 6.3 million tonnes per annum within three years, enabling it to handle up to 100 LNG cargoes annually.

Source: [Here](#) 06 June 2025

PANAMA CANAL SETS NEW RECORD FOR CONTAINER SHIP TRAFFIC IN 2025

Container ship traffic through the Panama Canal reached a record high in the first five months of 2025, with 1,200 vessel transits in each direction—a 4.1% increase over the 2022 record and 10.2% higher than early 2024. This surge is mainly due to a 30.2% rise in Neo Sub-Panamax vessels (7,500–10,000 TEUs), now making up over 25% of all transits. Improved water levels after 2023's drought enabled near-normal operations, while Suez Canal traffic has sharply declined in comparison.

Source: [Here](#) 12 June 2025

USCG'S NEWEST POLAR ICEBREAKER '*STORIS*' BEGINS FIRST ARCTIC MISSION

The US Coast Guard's newest polar icebreaker, USCGC Storis (WAGB 21), began its first Arctic mission after departing Bollinger Shipyards in Mississippi on June 3, 2025, and successfully transiting the Panama Canal. Storis is the first polar icebreaker acquired by the Coast Guard in over 25 years and will temporarily be based in Seattle until its homeport in Juneau, Alaska, is ready. The vessel was purchased in December 2024, upgraded for Arctic missions, and will help fill capability gaps while new Polar Security Cutters are under construction.

Source: [Here](#) 14 June 2025

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

FISH PREFER TO EAT PLASTIC OVER FOOD – AND IT IS KILLING THEM, STUDY SUGGESTS

A study found that fish larvae, such as baby perch, often eat microplastic particles instead of their natural food, leading to stunted growth, higher death rates, and increased vulnerability to predators. In experiments, all perch exposed to microplastics died within 48 hours. Microplastics come from degraded plastic waste, synthetic fibers, and cosmetic microbeads, entering waterways and potentially affecting entire aquatic ecosystems. Experts warn that these tiny plastics can enter animal tissues and may also pose risks to human health.

Source: [Here](#) 04 June 2025

UNOC3: NATIONS ADOPT DECLARATION TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF GOAL TO CONSERVE, SUSTAINABLY USE OCEANS

At the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, 175 nations adopted a declaration urging increased funding and support for ocean conservation, especially for developing countries. The declaration highlights the severe funding gap for SDG 14, calls for stronger science-

policy links, and encourages ratification of the High Seas Treaty. However, it lacks strong language on deep-sea mining, bottom trawling, and fossil fuels, drawing criticism from environmental groups. New marine protected areas and financial pledges were announced, but effective implementation remains a challenge.

Source: [Here](#) 04 June 2025

OCEAN PROTECTION NEEDS \$15.8 BILLION FUNDING ANNUALLY, BUT IS RECEIVING ONLY \$1.2 BILLION: REPORT

A recent report revealed that protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030 requires \$15.8 billion annually, but the current funding remains only \$1.2 billion, leaving a \$14.6 billion shortfall. Currently, 8.6% of oceans are designated as protected areas, yet only 2.7% are effectively managed. Most financial support comes from public sources, with limited private sector involvement. The report calls on developed nations to boost international biodiversity financing and suggests innovative solutions like blue bonds and reforming harmful subsidies to bridge the significant funding gap and ensure effective ocean conservation.

Source: [Here](#) 06 June 2025

WORLD OCEANS DAY 2025: A HEALTHY OCEAN MAKES A HEALTHY PLANET

Oceans cover over 70% of Earth's surface and are vital for producing oxygen and sequestering carbon, but face threats from climate change and pollution. The 2025 World Oceans Day theme, "Awaken new depths," urges renewed commitment to ocean protection. India, with its long coastline, is especially vulnerable to ocean warming, pollution, and extreme weather. Recent government initiatives focus on mangrove restoration and coastal resilience, aiming to protect livelihoods and biodiversity while addressing climate impacts on coastal communities.

Source: [Here](#) 08 June 2025

SEA CUCUMBERS COULD HOLD KEY TO STOPPING CANCER SPREAD

A University of Mississippi-led study found that a unique sugar compound from sea cucumbers can block Sulf-2, an enzyme crucial to cancer growth and spread. This compound, fucosylated chondroitin sulfate, inhibits Sulf-2 without causing blood clotting issues, making it a promising and safer candidate for cancer therapy. Due to limited natural supply, researchers aim to synthesise the compound for future drug development.

Source: [Here](#) 10 June 2025

GEOPOLITICS

INDIA-SRI LANKA DEFENCE DIALOGUE DISCUSSES ENHANCING MARITIME SECURITY

India and Sri Lanka held a high-level defence dialogue in Colombo to discuss expanding bilateral defence cooperation, with a strong focus on enhancing maritime security. This was the first major meeting following the signing of their first-ever defence partnership agreement on April 5, which aims to institutionalise military engagement and enable more structured cooperation, including potential collaboration in the defence industrial sector. Both sides also explored new avenues for training and strategic engagement, reaffirming their longstanding defence partnership.

Source: [Here](#) 04 June 2025

GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR OCEANS

Rising geopolitical tensions are threatening global cooperation on ocean conservation and sustainable use. Major powers are expanding naval fleets and competing for marine resources, leading to increased maritime disputes. The U.S. has rejected key UN ocean goals and unilaterally expanded its continental shelf, while China continues to assert claims in the South China Sea. These divisions undermine collective action, making strong, inclusive leadership essential to secure a healthy and productive ocean future.

Source: [Here](#) 05 June 2025

CHINA URGES EU TO STOP 'PROVOKING TROUBLE' IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

China has urged the European Union to stop "provoking trouble" in the South China Sea following comments made by the EU foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, expressing concern over China's actions in the disputed waters. The Chinese embassy in the Philippines stated that the EU is not a party to the South China Sea disputes and has no right to interfere, also cautioning Manila against relying on external forces to resolve the conflict. The remarks came after the EU and the Philippines announced a new security and defence dialogue addressing regional threats and concerns about China's conduct.

Source: [Here](#) 05 June 2025

JAPAN RAISES CONCERN AFTER CHINA DEPLOYS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN PACIFIC: 'ABNORMALLY CLOSE'

Japan has raised concerns after two Chinese aircraft carriers, Liaoning and Shandong, operated together in the Pacific for the first time—a significant expansion of China's naval presence beyond

its usual reach. The carriers conducted simultaneous operations near Iwo Jima, with Liaoning entering Japan's exclusive economic zone, though not its territorial waters. Both launched and landed fighter jets. Meanwhile, a Chinese jet approached a Japanese reconnaissance plane within 45 meters, prompting Japan to lodge a formal protest. While China described the deployment as routine training, Japan is reported to have started to increase surveillance in response.

Source: [Here](#) 12 June 2025

QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT LIKELY TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

The 2025 Quad Leaders Summit, hosted by India, is likely to be held in November instead of the initially planned September due to scheduling conflicts, including Japan's parliamentary elections and the UN General Assembly. Ahead of the summit, a Quad foreign ministers' meeting is expected in Washington in late June or early July. The Quad members are focusing on a more streamlined agenda emphasizing economic security, maritime security, infrastructure, technology, and disaster response. Counter-terrorism and support for India's stance on cross-border terrorism are also expected to feature prominently.

Source: [Here](#) 12 June 2025