

# **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

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## MARITIME SECURITY OVERVIEW: RISING PIRACY PRESSURES IN 2025

Global piracy incidents surged by nearly 50% in Q1 of 2025 compared to 2024, alarming the shipping industry. While 27 attacks were recorded in the Singapore Strait, the Gulf of Guinea remained a hotspot for crew kidnappings. The Gulf of Aden reported its first suspicious approach of the year. The UN has called for international cooperation to address the root cause of these incidents, while regional initiatives like the Africa-India Maritime Engagement and Combined Task Force 151 are intensifying anti-piracy efforts. Rising piracy threatens trade, increases costs, and exposes coverage gaps in maritime security.

Source: [Here](#) 20 May 2025

## 90 DAYS TO ECONOMIC COLLAPSE: UN AND EXPERTS SOUND ALARM OVER SECURITY AT SEA

The UN and maritime experts warn that surging piracy and attacks on shipping threaten global trade, risking economic collapse within 90 days if left unchecked. Incidents in the Red Sea and other key routes, combined with climate disruptions, have severely impacted supply chains. UN Secretary-General António Guterres urges urgent international cooperation and respect for maritime law to restore security. The UN Security Council is considering rapid-response measures as instability at sea endangers food, energy, and economic stability worldwide.

Source: [Here](#) 20 May 2025

## AT UN, INDIA CALLS MARITIME, ANTI-TERROR STRATEGY VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY AMID INDO-PACIFIC SHIFTS

India has told the UN Security Council that maritime security and countering terrorism are central to its national security and economic interests, especially as new threats and geopolitical shifts emerge in the Indo-Pacific. India's approach combines robust defense capabilities, regional diplomacy, international cooperation, and domestic infrastructure development. Having a long coastline and strong maritime forces, India is committed to a free, open, and rules-based maritime order and actively addresses both traditional and non-traditional threats, from piracy to maritime terrorism.

Source: [Here](#) 21 May 2025

## **EU PROPOSES BLACK SEA MARITIME SECURITY HUB**

The European Union has proposed establishing a Black Sea Maritime Security Hub to enhance maritime security amid ongoing Russian aggression. The hub will consolidate information from multiple countries to improve real-time monitoring and early warning capabilities, focusing on protecting underwater infrastructure such as cables and energy facilities. It will utilise underwater sensors, unmanned vessels, and surveillance drones to monitor shipping routes and counter threats from Russia's "shadow fleet." The initiative also aims to support regional cooperation, mine clearance, and potentially oversee ceasefire compliance between Russia and Ukraine. Details on location and funding are yet to be finalised.

Source: [Here](#) 28 May 2025

## **CHARACTER OF WARFARE CHANGED RAPIDLY, LINES BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE INCREASINGLY BLURRED: NAVY CHIEF**

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, India, stated that the character of warfare is changing rapidly, with the lines between war and peace increasingly blurred. He highlighted that commercial technologies are making advanced capabilities accessible to non-state actors, leading to an era of mass precision. Noting that non-traditional threats like terrorism can quickly escalate into larger conflicts, Admiral emphasised the importance of rapid technological adoption, innovation, and the maritime domain for India's security and prosperity. He also mentioned that national security now begins not just at borders, but also in R&D labs, factories, and firewalls.

Source: [Here](#) 30 May 2025

# **MARITIME FORCES**

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## **INDIAN WARSHIP, DORNIER AIRCRAFT TO FEATURE AT ASIA'S BIGGEST MARITIME SHOW LIMA 2025**

India, led by Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, will participate prominently at LIMA 2025, Asia's largest maritime and aerospace show in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Indian delegation will set up an exclusive pavilion for defence and commercial exhibitors, featuring major public sector units and private firms. On display will be a multi-purpose Dornier aircraft and the Indian Navy's INS Kavaratti warship, highlighting India's maritime capabilities and commitment to strengthening defence ties with Malaysia. The event underscores the strategic partnership between the two countries, reinforced by high-level visits and ongoing cooperation.

Source: [Here](#) 19 May 2025



## **PH, US FORCES IN JOINT MARITIME DRILLS**

The Philippine and the US forces conducted joint maritime drills in the South China Sea, marking the first time their coast guards participated together in combined military exercises. The drills took place off Palawan and Occidental Mindoro, involving the Philippine Navy and Air Force units, the US Coast Guard cutter Stratton, and a US Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft. Exercises included communication checks, search and rescue, and division tactics, reflecting a strengthened partnership and a “whole-of-nation” approach to maritime security amid ongoing regional challenges.

Source: [Here](#) 21 May 2025

## **INDIA’S MEMBERSHIP OF THE CMF: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF INDIA-US MARITIME TIES**

India’s full membership in the US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), announced in November 2023, marks a major shift in India-US maritime ties, enabling deeper defence cooperation and enhanced interoperability. With the CMF commanded by a US Navy vice admiral, an Indian officer could co-lead one of its task forces, strengthening joint operations. The Indian Navy’s first CMF mission—a narcotics interdiction under CTF-150—demonstrates India’s growing role in regional security. This partnership allows India and the US to prioritise areas for collaboration, such as counter-piracy, disaster relief, and capacity-building, while advancing India’s goal of being a net security-provider in the Indian Ocean Region.

Source: [Here](#) 24 May 2025

## **COAST GUARD, HALDIA DOCK COMPLEX HOLD MARINE POLLUTION RESPONSE WORKSHOP TO BOOST OIL SPILL READINESS**

The Indian Coast Guard and Haldia Dock Complex jointly hosted a two-day Marine Pollution Response Seminar and Workshop in Haldia, West Bengal, to boost oil spill preparedness and coordination along the state’s coastline. The event was inaugurated by the ICG Commander (West Bengal) and featured expert presentations from ICG and Haldia Dock Complex specialists, along with practical demonstrations of pollution response equipment. Major stakeholders, including Kolkata Port Trust and leading petrochemical companies, participated, enhancing rapid response capabilities for marine pollution incidents.

Source: [Here](#) 24 May 2025

## ***HMAS SYDNEY’S* THREE-MONTH JOURNEY THROUGH THE REGION**

*HMAS Sydney* is on a three-month deployment across the Indo-Pacific, conducting training, exercises, and regional engagements as part of Regional Presence Deployment 25-2. The ship completed enforcement of the UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea under Operation Argos, marking the 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Navy mission of the sort since 2018. Sydney also participated in multilateral maritime activities with the Philippines and the US, bilateral training

with the US and New Zealand, and Exercise Bersama Shield alongside Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, and the UK under the Five Power Defence Arrangements.

Source: [Here](#) 28 May 2025

# SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

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## MAHARASHTRA BETS BIG ON SHIPYARDS AND REPAIRS WITH NEW SHIPBUILDING POLICY

Maharashtra has approved the Shipbuilding, Ship Repair, and Ship Recycling Facility Development Policy 2025 to boost maritime infrastructure and attract private investment. The policy offers a 15% capital subsidy, aims to create shipyard clusters, standalone shipyards, and shipyard projects at ports, and encourages small and medium enterprises. The state targets a one-third share of India's shipbuilding effort, increased cargo handling, and job creation through workforce development and R&D. This move supports national maritime goals and is expected to generate new projects, employment, and foreign exchange.

Source: [Here](#) 17 May 2025

## LEVERAGING ONE-CLOUD: THE KEY TO SMART AND SECURE MARITIME OPERATIONS

Adopting a unified cloud platform revolutionises maritime operations by integrating ship management functions like safety, maintenance, procurement, and crewing into one secure, web-based system. This approach enhances real-time collaboration, reduces costs, and strengthens cybersecurity with advanced protections. AI-driven tools enable predictive maintenance and smarter decision-making, improving efficiency. Cloud solutions offer scalability and continuous updates, ensuring fleets remain agile and competitive. Platforms such as BASSnet Web 3.0 demonstrate how cloud adoption is key to smarter, safer, and more efficient maritime operations in today's digital era.

Source: [Here](#) 19 May 2025

## INDIAN PORTS SET TO GAIN FROM ONGOING SUPPLY CHAIN SHIFT? MOODY'S WEIGHS IN ON THE CHINA+1 STRATEGY

Moody's Ratings reports that Indian ports are poised to benefit from the global "China+1" strategy, as companies diversify manufacturing and supply chains away from China. While Chinese ports may face short-term financial challenges, ports in India and Indonesia could see increased activity as businesses establish operations outside China. Most cargo passing through Indian ports

serves the domestic market, and India's diversified exports and strong domestic economy help buffer against US tariffs. However, Moody's also notes that geopolitical tensions, such as recent India-Pakistan conflicts, have added stress to emerging markets.

Source: [Here](#) 21 May 2025

## **KOLLAM PORT DEVELOPMENT GAINS UNION GOVT'S SUPPORT**

The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has pledged full support for the comprehensive development of the Kollam port. The Centre has already allocated funds for a multi-purpose development project, enabling the port to accommodate passengers, cargoes, and luxury ships, and to start shipping services to Minicoy Island in Lakshadweep. However, since Kollam is not a major port, the responsibility of its development falls under the state government. The ministry urged the Kerala Maritime Board to submit a proposal under the Sagarmala project guidelines to access further central financial assistance for infrastructure and service expansion.

Source: [Here](#) 21 May 2025

## **BOLD STEPS TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY: KLAIPEDA PORT BEGINS GREEN HYDROGEN JOURNEY**

Klaipėda Port in Lithuania is set to become the first in the Baltic States to produce and supply green hydrogen for vessels, port equipment, and transportation. Construction of the €12 million facility will begin soon, aiming to start production next year. The plant will generate 127 tons of hydrogen annually, supporting both maritime and land transport, and is part-funded by the EU's NextGenerationEU program. A hydrogen-powered vessel is already under construction as part of the port's commitment to sustainability.

Source: [Here](#) 31 May 2025

# **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

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## **RISING TEMPERATURES LEAD TO UNEXPECTEDLY RAPID CARBON RELEASE FROM SOILS**

A new study reveals that rising temperatures cause much faster carbon release from soils than previously thought, especially in subtropical and tropical regions. Researchers found that temperature, more than changes in rainfall, strongly accelerates the decomposition of soil organic matter by microbes, leading to greater CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This effect was reported to be significantly underestimated by current climate models. The findings suggest that as global warming continues,

soil carbon turnover will speed up, potentially increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and intensifying climate change through a powerful feedback loop.

Source: [Here](#) 16 May 2025

## **WHY INDIA URGENTLY NEEDS TO SAVE ITS MARINE BIODIVERSITY**

India's marine biodiversity—from the Sundarbans to coral reefs and coastal habitats—faces urgent threats from climate change, industrial pollution, and overfishing. Rising sea levels are displacing coastal communities and increasing poverty, while coral bleaching in the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands, and declining fish stocks in Kerala and Tamil Nadu signal ecosystem collapse. Pollution and plastic waste endanger species like Olive Ridley turtles and mangroves, and overfishing has caused a 53% decline in key fish species off the western coast. These changes threaten millions of livelihoods and require urgent action to protect India's marine heritage and economy.

Source: [Here](#) 23 May 2025

## **BALANCING WIND POWER AND MARINE LIFE: NEW METHOD EVALUATES ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES**

A University of Aberdeen study has introduced a new method to assess the ecological impacts of offshore activities like wind farm development. By combining a dynamic ecosystem model with an ecosystem services database, this approach forecasts environmental consequences, including fisheries displacement and ecosystem changes. It helps marine planners minimise conflicts among marine resource uses and integrates the concept of Marine Net Gain, ensuring activities lead to a net positive impact on biodiversity. The method supports sustainable, evidence-based marine management and balances environmental and socio-economic trade-offs.

Source: [Here](#) 23 May 2025

## **KERALA: CARGO SHIP CARRYING MARINE FUEL SINKS; EYE OUT FOR OIL, CHEMICAL SPILL**

The Liberian-flagged cargo ship *MSC ELSA 3* sank off the Kochi coast after flooding. All 24 crew members were safely rescued by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard. The vessel was carrying 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous materials like calcium carbide, and large quantities of diesel and furnace oil. Oil and plastic pellets have started washing ashore, prompting a disaster declaration by the state and a major cleanup effort to protect marine life, fisheries, and local communities.

Source: [Here](#) 25 May 2025



## **THE OCEAN SEEMS TO BE GETTING DARKER**

More than one-fifth of the global ocean—over 75 million sq km—has become darker in the past two decades, according to new research. Ocean darkening reduces the depth of photic zones, that are vital for 90% of marine life. Between 2003 and 2022, 21% of the ocean darkened, with over 9% seeing photic zones shrink by more than 50 metres. Causes include nutrient and sediment runoff near coasts and changes in algal blooms and sea temperatures in open waters, potentially threatening marine ecosystems and their services.

Source: [Here](#) 27 May 2025

# **GEOPOLITICS**

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## **PACIFIC ISLANDS CRACK DOWN ON IUU FISHING TO PROTECT TUNA STOCKS**

Pacific Island nations completed Operation TUI MOANA 2025, a two-week regional crackdown on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing to safeguard vital tuna stocks. Ten members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency coordinated patrols across their exclusive economic zones and adjacent high seas, resulting in 76 vessel boardings, nine vessels of interest identified, and one apprehension for suspected illegal fishing. Supported by Australia, France, New Zealand, and the US, the operation showcased strong regional cooperation and advanced surveillance capabilities.

Source: [Here](#) 20 May 2025

## **ASEAN EXPERTS CONVENE TO TACKLE MARITIME SECURITY SANS MAJOR POWERS**

ASEAN experts gathered in Manila for a first-of-its-kind maritime security dialogue focused solely on regional cooperation, deliberately excluding major powers like China and the US. Representatives from all 10 ASEAN countries discussed strengthening autonomy, transparency at sea, and tackling maritime threats and environmental issues in the South China Sea. The event aimed to foster open discussion and data-driven recommendations, especially as Chinese research vessels continue operating in the Philippine waters without permission, raising concerns about violations of international law and regional security.

Source: [Here](#) 21 May 2025

## **INDIA, MALDIVES LEADERS DISCUSS JOINT VISION OF A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND MARITIME SECURITY PARTNERSHIP**

India and the Maldives are deepening their Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, as reaffirmed during a high-level meeting. The partnership covers intensified political exchanges, robust defence and maritime cooperation, economic support, and infrastructure

development. India will provide the Maldives with defence platforms, training, and infrastructure upgrades to boost maritime security and disaster response capabilities. Financial assistance, which includes a currency swap and project funding, aims to stabilise the Maldives' economy. Both nations are also expanding trade, digital connectivity, health, and people-to-people ties, positioning the partnership as a pillar of stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

Source: [Here](#) 26 May 2025

## **PANAMA BACKS INDIA'S BID FOR PERMANENT SEAT AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL**

Panama's Foreign Minister Javier Martinez Acha has publicly backed India's bid for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council, emphasising the strong and growing bilateral relationship between the two countries, rooted in mutual respect, shared democratic values, and a vision for prosperity and peace. During a visit by an Indian parliamentary delegation led by Shashi Tharoor, Acha highlighted India's deserving role in the Security Council and highlighted the ongoing collaboration in trade, maritime, education, health, and renewable energy sectors.

Source: [Here](#) 29 May 2025

## **'WE CAN'T MOVE NORTH DUE TO CHINA': CDS CHAUHAN SAYS INDIA MUST EMBRACE INDIAN OCEAN AS ITS STRATEGIC FUTURE**

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan stated that India must situate the Indian Ocean as its strategic future, given limited options to the north due to China and instability in Myanmar. He described the Indian Ocean as "our destiny," highlighting India's island territories as strategic assets. Chauhan urged expanding India's maritime focus beyond the northern Indian Ocean and emphasised self-reliance in defence modernisation, including indigenous platforms and digital infrastructure, as vital for India's security.

Source: [Here](#) 29 May 2025