

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

INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA SET UP JOINT GROUP TO BOOST MARITIME COOPERATION

India and Saudi Arabia established a Joint Working Group (JWG) in 2025 to deepen maritime cooperation focused on shipping, logistics, and trade facilitation. This strategic partnership enhances connectivity via new routes like Jeddah-Mundra/Nhava Sheva, reducing transit times and costs. Collaborative efforts also include integrating India's MAITRI digital platform to harmonise maritime trade. The partnership aligns India's Maritime India Vision 2030 and Saudi Vision 2030, inviting Saudi investments in India's port infrastructure, including major projects like VadHAVAN and VO Chidambaranar ports, marking a new chapter in bilateral economic and maritime ties.

Source: [Here](#), 20 August 2025

INDIA, FIJI RESOLVE TO BOOST DEFENCE AND MARITIME BILATERAL TIES

India and Fiji have agreed to deepen defence and maritime cooperation following Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka's visit to New Delhi in August 2025. Both nations announced nine agreements and 17 initiatives, including establishing a Defence Attache in Suva, gifting two sea ambulances, and creating a Cyber Security Training Cell in Fiji. India also assured support for securing Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone and conducting a naval port call to boost interoperability. The initiatives aim to bolster regional maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and capacity building under a shared vision of a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#), 25 August 2025

MULTI-MISSION STEALTH FRIGATES - INS UDAYGIRI & INS HIMGIRI - COMMISSIONED INTO INDIAN NAVY IN THE PRESENCE OF RAKSHA MANTRI IN VIZAG

The Indian Navy commissioned two advanced multi-mission stealth frigates, INS *Udaygiri* and INS *Himgiri*, on August 26, 2025, marking a significant milestone in indigenous shipbuilding. Both vessels feature enhanced stealth, advanced weaponry, surveillance systems, and over 75% indigenous content, reflecting India's push for self-reliance under the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative. These frigates will strengthen maritime security, support humanitarian and disaster relief missions, and enhance operational capability in the Indian Ocean Region. The commissioning also

symbolises India's growing blue-water navy status and its readiness to respond effectively to diverse maritime challenges in a complex geopolitical environment.

Source: [Here](#), 26 August 2025

IN JAPAN, PM MODI PITCHES QUAD'S PRACTICAL ROLE IN MARITIME SECURITY, DISASTER RELIEF

During his Japan visit for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the Quad's role as a provider of practical solutions in the Indo-Pacific, emphasising cooperation in maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies. Modi highlighted Quad's collective strength in delivering tangible regional benefits and Japan's central role in advancing this agenda. He described India-Japan ties as a pillar of Indo-Pacific stability, citing collaborations in defence, semiconductors, and space (including the LUPEX lunar mission), and reaffirmed both countries' alignment in promoting a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#), 29 August 2025

SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS EXPAND MARITIME SECURITY COLLABORATION

Southeast Asian nations are expanding maritime security collaboration through joint patrols, exercises, and information sharing to address challenges like smuggling, piracy, and illegal fishing. The 24th annual SEACAT exercise, held in September 2025, involved 12 nations, enhancing interoperability and real-time coordination in maritime domain awareness. The exercise used tools like SeaVision for tracking vessels and shared intelligence for timely action. Regional efforts focus on strengthening bilateral dispute management, capacity building for maritime domain awareness technology, and collaboration on critical infrastructure security, aligning with broader Indo-Pacific security priorities to ensure stability in vital sea lanes.

Source: [Here](#), 29 August 2025

MARITIME FORCES

INDIA-SRI LANKA CONCLUDE NAVAL EXERCISE SLINEX-25, STRENGTHEN COOPERATION, SHARPEN OPERATIONAL READINESS

The 12th edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral naval exercise SLINEX-25 concluded successfully in Colombo in August 2025. Indian Navy ships INS *Rana* and INS *Jyoti* participated alongside Sri Lanka's SLNS *Vijayabahu* and SLNS *Sayura*, supported by Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters. The exercise included harbour and sea phases, focusing on enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding through drills like visit, board, search and seizure, gunnery, helicopter operations,

and special forces exercises. SLINEX reflects deep maritime cooperation aligned with India's *MAHASAGAR* policy, strengthening regional security and joint operational readiness.

Source: [Here](#), 20 August 2025

6TH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN ICG AND VIETNAM COAST GUARD HELD IN HANOI

The 6th High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) was held in Hanoi on August 20, 2025, under their 2015 MoU on Coast Guard Cooperation. Discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in Maritime Search and Rescue, Maritime Law Enforcement, Marine Pollution Response, and Capacity Building. Both sides emphasised tackling transnational maritime crimes such as smuggling, trafficking, and illegal fishing. They reviewed recent joint ship visits and professional exchanges and agreed on continued interoperability initiatives. This meeting reinforced their commitment to regional maritime security, safety, environmental sustainability, and operational synergy through regular interactions and shared best practices.

Source: [Here](#), 20 August 2025

SAUDI ARABIA ASSUMES COMMAND OF COMBINED MARITIME FORCES' COMBINED TASK FORCE 150

The Royal Saudi Navy assumed command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) on August 19, 2025, from the Royal New Zealand Navy during a ceremony in Bahrain. CTF 150 is a multinational maritime task force operating under the Combined Maritime Forces, focusing on maritime security operations outside the Arabian Gulf, including the Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Indian Ocean. It combats terrorism, smuggling, and illicit activities to protect shipping lanes and ensure safe global trade. This marks the fourth time Saudi Arabia has led CTF 150, reinforcing its commitment to regional maritime security.

Source: [Here](#), 20 August 2025

INDIAN NAVAL SHIPS *TAMAL* AND *SURAT* VISIT JEDDAH TO STRENGTHEN DEFENCE TIES

Indian Naval Ships INS *Tamal* (a newly commissioned multi-role frigate) and INS *Surat* (a guided missile destroyer) visited Jeddah Port, Saudi Arabia, on August 27-28, 2025, to strengthen defence ties. The visit included interaction with the Royal Saudi Naval Forces and Border Guards, familiarisation with naval facilities, discussions on maritime security challenges in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean region, and cultural exchanges. The ships also conducted a Passage Exercise with the Royal Saudi Naval Forces. The visit underscores India-Saudi Arabia defence collaboration and aims to deepen operational coordination and joint maritime security efforts.

Source: [Here](#), 28 August 2025

CONCLUSION OF ‘EMERGING LEADERS PANEL DISCUSSION’ HELD UNDER THE AEGIS OF INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM (IONS-2025)

The 'Emerging Leaders Panel Discussion' of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was held in Kochi from August 27-28, 2025, with delegates from 19 member countries. Vice Admiral V Srinivas highlighted the Indian Navy's commitment to dialogue, trust, and cooperative security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The event featured sessions on strategic challenges, emerging maritime technologies, enhanced collaboration, and shared training initiatives. Discussions emphasised maritime domain awareness, interoperability, and resource pooling. The panel concluded with a renewed commitment to IONS as an inclusive platform promoting peace, prosperity, and security in the IOR through cooperation and innovation.

Source: [Here](#), 29 August 2025

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

INDIAN PORTS BILL 2025 EMPOWERS STATE MARITIME BOARDS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

The Indian Ports Bill 2025 replaces the colonial-era 1908 Act, empowering State Maritime Boards to manage non-major ports, including licensing, tariff fixation, and infrastructure development. It establishes the Maritime State Development Council to guide data collection, transparency, and national port planning. The Bill mandates compliance with international environmental laws like MARPOL, promotes pollution control, disaster preparedness, and efficient port management through digital tools. Dispute Resolution Committees are set up for timely conflict resolution. This legislative reform aims to modernise India's ports, support economic growth, and position India as a global maritime leader.

Source: [Here](#), 18 August 2025

ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD, APM TERMINALS SIGN MOU TO DEVELOP THREE PORTS IN THE STATE

The Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board signed an MoU with APM Terminals on August 21, 2025, to develop three ports—*Ramayapatnam*, *Machilipatnam*, and *Mulapeta*—with an investment of approximately ₹9,000 crore (USD 1 billion). The project aims to modernise port infrastructure with advanced terminals and cargo handling systems, supporting the Chief Minister's vision to

develop Andhra Pradesh as the eastern gateway for maritime trade and a logistics hub. The initiative is expected to create 8,000 to 10,000 direct jobs and will integrate road, rail, inland waterways, and air connectivity to strengthen the state's trade network.

Source: [Here](#), 22 August 2025

SHIPPING MINISTRY MULLS DEDICATED SATELLITE TO BOLSTER INDIA'S MARITIME GOVERNANCE AND PORT MANAGEMENT

India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways plans to launch a dedicated satellite or acquire a specialised transponder to bolster maritime governance, port management, and coastal security. Announced by Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in August 2025, the system aims to provide exclusive coverage across Indian coastal waters, inland waterways, and port areas, integrating with national maritime databases for real-time vessel tracking and navigational safety. This initiative will enhance traffic monitoring, early congestion detection, search and rescue operations, pollution control, and disaster management, reducing dependence on foreign systems and supporting India's *Atmanirbhar Bharat* vision in maritime domain awareness.

Source: [Here](#), 25 August 2025

ICCT AND TERI'S NCOEGPS SIGN MOU AT ICTS 2025 TO ADVANCE GREEN PORTS & SHIPPING IN INDIA

The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) and TERI's National Centre of Excellence in Green Ports & Shipping (NCoEGPS) signed an MoU at the India Clean Transport Summit (ICTS) 2025 to advance sustainable maritime practices in India. The collaboration will focus on research for ship emission quantification, shore power adoption, ship efficiency, and alternative fuels. Aligned with India's Harit Sagar Green Port Guidelines and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, the initiative promotes data sharing, capacity building, and policy development to accelerate maritime decarbonisation and green port infrastructure.

Source: [Here](#), 25 August 2025

LARGE SHIPS MAY SERVE AS COLLATERAL FOR LOANS

India plans to allow large ships to be used as collateral for loans, facilitating easier financing for the maritime sector. This move, part of the 2025-26 budget, includes granting infrastructure status to large ships, enabling access to long-term, low-cost financing and tax incentives. The Maritime Development Fund of ₹25,000 crore will support ship acquisition and boost fleet modernisation. It aims to increase Indian-flagged ships' share of global cargo to 20% by 2047. The policy also promotes developing shipbuilding clusters and provides direct subsidies to Indian shipyards, fostering private investment and industry growth.

Source: [Here](#), 29 August 2025

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

MARINE FISH PRODUCTION RISES TO 44.95 LAKH TONNES; GOVT PUSHES CLIMATE-RESILIENT STRATEGIES

India's marine fish production rose sharply from 34.76 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 to 44.95 lakh tonnes in 2023-24, an average annual growth of 8.9%. Sustainable fisheries constitute 91.1% of assessed marine stocks. The government promotes climate-resilient practices through the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), supporting sustainable fishing, eco-friendly aquaculture, and marine ecosystem conservation. Efforts include developing 100 climate-resilient coastal fishing villages, building fishing harbours and cold storage, and training nearly 15 lakh stakeholders via the NETFISH program. These measures boost fishers' incomes, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance India's marine exports.

Source: [Here](#), 20 August 2025

GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY TALKS COLLAPSE, AND OTHER NATURE AND CLIMATE NEWS

Global talks to develop a legally binding plastics treaty failed after 10 days of negotiations at the UN's INC-5.2 session in August 2025. Key issues causing deadlock included disagreement over whether to cap new plastic production or focus on waste management and recycling. More than 1,400 delegates from 183 countries participated, but a consensus could not be reached due to vested interests, especially from petro-states like the US and Saudi Arabia. Despite the collapse, participants remain optimistic and committed to renewing efforts to achieve a treaty to end plastic pollution.

Source: [Here](#), 20 August 2025

MOMENTUM BUILDS TOWARDS MARINE BIODIVERSITY TREATY, AS EXPERTS CONVENE IN NEW YORK

The UN marine biodiversity treaty, formally titled the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, reached a milestone with 60 ratifications by September 2025, triggering its entry into force on January 17, 2026. This landmark treaty provides the first legally binding framework to protect marine life in international waters, enabling marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and equitable sharing of marine genetic resource benefits. The treaty's implementation phase is expected to begin in 2026 with the first Conference of the Parties, advancing global ocean conservation, climate resilience, and biodiversity goals.

Source: [Here](#), 22 August 2025

SCIENTISTS WARN OCEAN-BASED CLIMATE FIXES LACK RULES AND OVERSIGHT

Ocean-based climate interventions, aimed at mitigating climate change and aiding adaptation, face significant governance and oversight gaps. Despite increased funding and deployment, a new study published in *Science* warns these interventions lack strong rules, risking social and ecological harm. Examples include geoengineering, ocean fertilisation, coral bioengineering, and offshore renewable energy. The paper calls for comprehensive local, national, and global regulations to ensure safety, equity, and effectiveness, urging transparent public communication and credible monitoring. Experts emphasise democratic input, respect for Indigenous knowledge, and international cooperation to avoid unintended consequences and ensure responsible ocean-climate solutions.

Source: [Here](#), 27 August 2025

DELEGATION SEEK ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE TO MANGROVES, MARINE ECOSYSTEM AFTER NATURAL GAS LEAK IN YANAM

A gas leak from an ONGC natural gas pipeline near Yanam in August 2025 caused a fire, but no casualties. The fire, which erupted around 1:30 a.m., was extinguished by 3:30 a.m. after ONGC halted gas supply. Authorities and local administrators swiftly responded, containing the situation and assuring safety. Concerned about the ecological impact, a delegation has called for an assessment of damage to mangroves and the marine ecosystem around the affected area. The incident raised local fears due to previous leaks, prompting calls for stricter safety and monitoring measures by ONGC.

Source: [Here](#), 29 August 2025

GEOPOLITICS

IN ALASKA, PUTIN EMERGES AS CSAR OF GEOPOLITICS

The 2025 Alaska summit between President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin ended without a peace deal on Ukraine. Trump rolled out a red carpet and welcomed Putin warmly, marking a significant diplomatic win for Russia, breaking its Western isolation since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Putin used the meeting to boost Russia's global standing and assert leverage over Ukraine and Europe. Trump sought a quick peace but was outmanoeuvred by Putin's patience and demands. The summit projected US-Russia rapprochement optics, sidelined Ukraine, and raised fears of concessions favouring Russia, highlighting Putin's geopolitical dominance and Trump's diplomatic setback.

Source: [Here](#), 16 August 2025

INDIA AND CHINA HAIL WARMING TIES AMID TRUMP-INDUCED GEOPOLITICAL SHAKE-UP

In 2025, India and China marked a significant thaw in relations with renewed diplomatic and economic engagement after years of tension following border clashes in 2017 and 2020. At the SCO Summit in Tianjin, Prime Minister Modi and President Xi emphasised development partnership over rivalry, agreeing to resume direct flights, tourist visas, and trade through key border passes. Both nations committed to maintaining border peace and structural dialogue for de-escalation. This reset comes amid geopolitical shifts partly triggered by US policies under Trump, and both countries seek to balance strategic autonomy with pragmatic cooperation, opening new avenues in trade, investment, and regional stability.

Source: [Here](#), 20 August 2025

GOVERNING THE ENERGY TRANSITION: REGULATION, RISK, AND GEOPOLITICS IN A LOW-CARB

In 2025, the energy transition has become central to global economic and geopolitical strategy. Governments actively foster innovation and align industrial policy with climate goals. India boosts renewables and manufacturing through incentives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. However, protectionism is rising, with the US and India prioritising domestic industries, affecting global supply chains. Regulatory frameworks like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) are crucial for transparency and climate alignment. Geopolitical tensions and energy security concerns reshape markets. Effective regulation must balance innovation and emissions goals to ensure a resilient, low-carbon future. Public institutions' leadership is critical.

Source: [Here](#), 25 August 2025

INDIA-US HOLD 2+2 INTERSESSIONAL DIALOGUE: NEW 10-YEAR DEFENCE FRAMEWORK, TRADE, ENERGY, AND INDO-PACIFIC TIES DISCUSSED

India and the US held the 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue in August 2025, advancing a new 10-year defence framework aimed at deepening cooperation in defence production, technology, operational coordination, and intelligence sharing. The dialogue also covered trade, civil-nuclear energy, critical minerals, counterterrorism, and counternarcotics. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to the Indo-Pacific's security and prosperity, highlighting cooperation through the Quad framework. This mid-cycle review of the broader 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue underscores the strategic partnership's growth despite trade tensions, focusing on mutual benefits and regional stability in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

Source: [Here](#), 26 August 2025

INDIA-JAPAN TIES NEED A BIG LEAP IN INDO-PACIFIC

India and Japan aim for a significant leap in their Indo-Pacific partnership in 2025, anchored in their Special Strategic and Global Partnership. They adopted a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, enhancing bilateral defence ties through more complex exercises, tri-service and special operations collaboration, information sharing, and logistics support. Economic cooperation is growing with a focus on critical sectors such as semiconductors, clean energy, and digital technologies. Both countries emphasise upholding a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific order, deepening ties in defence, technology, trade, and people-to-people exchanges. This partnership also complements collective frameworks like the Quad for regional peace and prosperity.

Source: [Here](#), 31 August 2025