

# **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

<b>MARITIME SECURITY</b>	2-3
A Regional Maritime Forum Can Create Sweeter Cooperation in Southeast Asia	2
From Malacca to the Sulu Sea, AI is Rewriting Maritime Security	2
Iran, Caspian Sea States Reinforce Maritime Security Through Strategic Accord	2
India-Australia Forge Stronger Maritime Security Bonds for Indo-Pacific Stability	3
India Shares Maritime Security and Disaster Response Experience at HACGAM 2025	3
<b>MARITIME FORCES</b>	3-5
Strengthening Morale and Wellness: MHWS Culture Evaluation Tool Launches Across MARPAC	3
Indian And UK Navies Conclude Konkan-25, Cementing Strategic Defence Partnership for Enhanced Regional Stability	4
IONS 2025 Naval Summit Wraps Up in Iranian Northern Port City	4
India, South Korea Launch First-Ever Bilateral Naval Exercise	4
Naval Forces Remain on Alert for Houthi Attacks Despite Gaza Ceasefire Deal	5
<b>SHIPPING, PORTS, AND OCEAN ECONOMY</b>	5-7
Centre Backs Plan for Shipping Cluster at Dugarajapatnam: Sonowal	5
India Strengthens Maritime 'Atmanirbharata' as VLGC Shivalik Anchors Under India's Flag: Sarbananda Sonowal	6
Cosco Ports Unit Finalises Thailand Container Terminals Deal	6
China Counters US With 'Special Port Fees' On American Ships	6
Three Major Ports Recognised as Green Hydrogen Hubs	7
<b>MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>	7-8
Ocean Acidification: Seventh Planetary Boundary Now Crossed	7
Tehran Ready to Host COP 7 for Marine Environment Protection	7
Global Shipping Faces Decisive Moment at IMO's MEPC ES.2	8
NIO Goa Hosts Geotraces Scientific Steering Committee Meeting, Members from 35 Countries Participate	8
Experts Call for Adoption of "Blue Values" Framework to Safeguard Indian Ocean Benefits for People and Nature	8
<b>GEOPOLITICS</b>	9-10
'Multipolarity Going to Be Messy, AI Taking Centrestage in Geopolitics': Top Quotes from Jaishankar's Speech At KEC	9
After 55 Years, India-Tonga Ties Are a Beacon for Indo-Pacific Solidarity	9
India, Australia Eye Upgrade in Ties with Submarine and Information-Sharing Pact	9
India, Australia to Deepen Cooperation For 'Free and Open' Indo-Pacific	10
Free And Open Indo-Pacific': US Ambassador-Designate Sergio Gor Meets NSA Doval; Discusses Defence, Trade and Technology	10

# MARITIME SECURITY

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## **A REGIONAL MARITIME FORUM CAN CREATE SWEETER COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Southeast Asia is moving toward more structured, institutionalized maritime cooperation in 2025. The 15th ASEAN Maritime Forum, held in Malaysia, advanced dialogue on security, regional incident prevention, and shared management of maritime resources. Calls are growing for a dedicated regional maritime forum encompassing all stakeholders—ASEAN states, major partners, and industry—to drive practical solutions for issues like illegal fishing, piracy, and environmental threats. Recent summits and conferences highlight the need to coordinate decarbonization, enhance maritime domain awareness, and align regulations. These efforts aim to foster more resilient, rules-based regional maritime governance and boost joint action on pressing transboundary challenges.

Source: [Here](#), 04 October 2025

## **FROM MALACCA TO THE SULU SEA, AI IS REWRITING MARITIME SECURITY**

Artificial intelligence is transforming maritime security across Southeast Asia, notably from the Malacca Strait to the Sulu Sea. In 2025, ASEAN defence ministers issued a joint call to adopt AI in defence, accelerating the deployment of AI-powered surveillance, predictive analytics, and decision-support systems. These technologies enable real-time detection of piracy, IUU fishing, smuggling, and vessel anomalies, while supporting faster coordinated responses among navies and coast guards. Enhanced maritime domain awareness and cross-border information sharing are improving incident prevention and crisis management, though risks around data security and operational transparency remain significant challenges for the region.

Source: [Here](#), 08 October 2025

## **IRAN, CASPIAN SEA STATES REINFORCE MARITIME SECURITY THROUGH STRATEGIC ACCORD**

Naval commanders from Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan have signed a strategic cooperation accord to strengthen maritime security and regional collaboration in the Caspian Sea. The agreement, concluded in St. Petersburg in October 2025, focuses on ensuring sustainable security through enhanced coordination and expressly bars foreign or extra-regional powers from involvement in the Caspian's internal affairs. The signatories reaffirmed that only

the five littoral states have authority over maritime security and governance matters in the region, reflecting a unified stance on sovereignty and regional control.

Source: [Here](#), 08 October 2025

## **INDIA-AUSTRALIA FORGE STRONGER MARITIME SECURITY BONDS FOR INDO-PACIFIC STABILITY**

India and Australia's maritime security partnership has deepened significantly in 2025, anchored by new agreements on mutual submarine rescue, real-time information sharing, and expanded joint staff talks. Both nations have enhanced naval coordination through bilateral activities such as joint maritime domain awareness and anti-submarine warfare, as well as by conducting reciprocal aircraft deployments. India and Australia are actively integrating efforts with partners like Japan and the US, and have elevated their trilateral work with Indonesia to address Indo-Pacific security threats. Their collaboration underscores a shared vision of a free, open, and stable Indo-Pacific, with plans for expanded dialogue and high-complexity exercises.

Source: [Here](#), 10 October 2025

## **INDIA SHARES MARITIME SECURITY AND DISASTER RESPONSE EXPERIENCE AT HACGAM 2025**

India, represented by the Indian Coast Guard Director General Paramesh Sivamani, participated in the 21st Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) held in Sydney, Australia. India shared its experience in maritime security, disaster response, and marine environment protection, and explored further joint exercises, training, and operational coordination with regional partners. As Chair of the Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) Pillar and active working group member, India emphasized its commitment to combating transnational maritime crimes and IUU fishing, enhancing marine safety, and fostering regional trust and capacity among Asian coast guards.

Source: [Here](#), 14 October 2025

# **MARITIME FORCES**

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## **STRENGTHENING MORALE AND WELLNESS: MHWS CULTURE EVALUATION TOOL LAUNCHES ACROSS MARPAC**

The Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPAC) launched the Health and Wellness Strategy's Culture Evaluation Tool & Process (CET&P) in fall 2025. Developed over two years, the CET&P helps MARPAC units assess and improve their health and wellness culture across five key areas: Active Living, Addictions-Free Living, Healthy Nutrition, Mental and Social Wellness, and Organizational Wellness. It uses physical walkthroughs, policy assessments, and questionnaires to

identify strengths and challenges, guiding targeted improvements. Pilot use showed benefits like improved hydration, rest quality, and family engagement. The tool promotes shared responsibility for wellness, boosting morale and operational readiness.

Source: [Here](#), 06 October 2025

## **INDIAN AND UK NAVIES CONCLUDE KONKAN-25, CEMENTING STRATEGIC DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP FOR ENHANCED REGIONAL STABILITY**

The Indian and UK Navies successfully concluded Exercise Konkan-25, held from October 5 to 12, 2025, off India's western coast. This bilateral naval exercise included a harbour phase featuring professional exchanges, cultural activities, and cross-deck visits, followed by a sea phase with complex maritime operations such as anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare, plus flying operations. The Indian Navy was represented by the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and its battle group, while the UK deployed its Carrier Strike Group led by HMS Prince of Wales. Konkan-25 enhanced interoperability, operational readiness, and cemented the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under Vision 2035, reinforcing commitment to secure, open, and free seas contributing to regional stability.

Source: [Here](#), 11 October 2025

## **IONS 2025 NAVAL SUMMIT WRAPS UP IN IRANIAN NORTHERN PORT CITY**

The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) 2025, held in Nowshahr, Iran, from October 6–9, gathered naval officials from eleven countries to strengthen cooperation in disaster response and humanitarian operations. The summit emphasized maritime safety and security under the theme “Together for Maritime Safety and Security.” Iran's Navy won top honours in rescue and shooting contests, showcasing operational excellence. The event featured practical exercises on maritime emergencies and first aid, promoting inter-naval coordination. This summit reinforced IONS as a key regional forum fostering collaboration, trust, and enhanced maritime security across the Indian Ocean littoral states.

Source: [Here](#), 12 October 2025

## **INDIA, SOUTH KOREA LAUNCH FIRST-EVER BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE**

India and South Korea launched their first-ever bilateral naval exercise, IN-RoKN, on October 13, 2025, at the Busan Naval Base, South Korea. The Indian Naval Ship INS Sahyadri, an indigenously built Shivalik-class stealth frigate, participated in the exercise. The two-week exercise includes both harbour and sea phases designed to enhance interoperability, mutual understanding, and operational coordination. Activities such as cross-deck visits, professional

exchanges, cross-training, and joint maritime operations with South Korea's ROKS Gyeongnam were conducted. This exercise marks a significant milestone in India-South Korea maritime cooperation, reflecting their shared commitment to regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#), 14 October 2025

## **NAVAL FORCES REMAIN ON ALERT FOR HOUTH ATTACKS DESPITE GAZA CEASEFIRE DEAL**

Despite the Gaza ceasefire deal in 2025, naval forces remain on high alert for ongoing Houthi attacks targeting commercial vessels in the Red Sea region. Since late 2023, Houthis have launched over 170 attacks, including sinking bulk carriers Magic Seas and Eternity C in July 2025, causing fatalities and escalating shipping risks. These assaults employ drones, missiles, explosive boats, and other tactics, significantly raising freight costs and threatening freedom of navigation. UN Security Council resolutions have condemned these acts, demanding cessation and affirming member states' rights to defend vessels. The threat persists, contingent on Gaza conflict developments.

Source: [Here](#), 13 October 2025

# **SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY**

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## **CENTRE BACKS PLAN FOR SHIPPING CLUSTER AT DUGARAJAPATNAM: SONOWAL**

The Union government is fully supporting the development of a world-class shipping cluster at Dugarajapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, with a Detailed Project Report nearing completion. The project spans 2,000 acres with an investment of about ₹26,000 crore, including a ₹3,000-crore ship-breaking and recycling facility. Feasibility studies were conducted by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA). Expected to generate around 5,000 direct and 30,000 indirect jobs, this cluster is a key part of Andhra Pradesh's vision for port-led economic growth, enhancing maritime infrastructure and positioning India as a global maritime hub.

Source: [Here](#), 07 October 2025

## **INDIA STRENGTHENS MARITIME 'ATMANIRBHARATA' AS VLGC SHIVALIK ANCHORS UNDER INDIA'S FLAG: SARBANANDA SONOWAL**

India inducted the Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC) Shivalik under its national flag at Visakhapatnam Port, as part of the Shipping Corporation of India's (SCI) growing fleet. The Shivalik, built in South Korea with an 82,000 CBM capacity, is India's third VLGC and strengthens the country's energy logistics, enabling efficient LPG transport from the Arabian Gulf to India. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted the move as a symbol of India's "*Atmanirbharata*" (self-reliance) in shipping, marking a milestone in national maritime resurgence and a step toward greater fleet expansion and global competitiveness.

Source: [Here](#), 07 October 2025

## **COSCO PORTS UNIT FINALISES THAILAND CONTAINER TERMINALS DEAL**

Cosco Shipping Ports has finalized its acquisition of a 12.5% equity stake in Thai Laem Chabang Terminal and a 30% stake in Hutchison Laem Chabang Terminal, Thailand's largest port, with a total investment of around \$110 million. Laem Chabang handles nearly 80% of Thailand's container throughput, ranking 20th globally with 9.6 million TEU in 2024. The transaction, completed last month, strengthens Cosco's logistics footprint in Southeast Asia and supports cooperation with global shipping companies. Rival China Merchants Port Holdings recently acquired additional Indonesian and Thai terminals as Chinese companies compete to benefit from Asia's growing ports sector.

Source: [Here](#), 08 October 2025

## **CHINA COUNTERS US WITH 'SPECIAL PORT FEES' ON AMERICAN SHIPS**

China has announced it will impose "special port fees" on ships operated by or built in the United States, starting October 14, 2025. This move is in direct response to US charges on Chinese-linked ships initiated earlier in April. The fees will be charged at Chinese ports based on net tonnage, starting at 400 yuan (\$56) per net tonne for US ships, increasing to 640 yuan by April and continuing to rise annually. Chinese-built ships face fees beginning at \$18 per net tonne or \$120 per container. This tit-for-tat reflects ongoing tensions in the shipping industry between the two powers, with China calling the fees a legitimate protection of its shipping sector. Each ship is charged at its first port of call, up to five times a year.

Source: [Here](#), 10 October 2025

## **THREE MAJOR PORTS RECOGNISED AS GREEN HYDROGEN HUBS**

Three major Indian ports have been recognized as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the government's cluster-based development model. This approach aims to enhance early-stage project viability, foster convergence of infrastructure, and achieve economies of scale in the hydrogen sector within identified regions. The recognition is expected to boost industrial participation, attract green investments, and promote innovation in clean fuel technologies. The initiative aligns with the framework for Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters (HVIC) and Green Hydrogen Hubs, supporting large-scale green hydrogen activities and accelerating India's energy transition goals.

Source: [Here](#), 10 October 2025

# **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

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## **OCEAN ACIDIFICATION: SEVENTH PLANETARY BOUNDARY NOW CROSSED**

A landmark 2025 global scientific report reveals that humanity has now crossed seven of nine planetary boundaries crucial for Earth's stability and life support. The newest transgressed boundary is ocean acidification, driven primarily by rising carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion. This has caused a 30-40% increase in ocean acidity, threatening marine ecosystems like coral reefs and Arctic marine life. The shift compromises the ocean's role as a climate stabilizer, impacting biodiversity, food security, and global climate resilience. The report calls for urgent coordinated global action, including recent international agreements on marine biodiversity and pollution reduction.

Source: [Here](#), 07 October 2025

## **TEHRAN READY TO HOST COP 7 FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**

Tehran is prepared to host COP 7 for the marine environment protection of the Caspian Sea, scheduled for October 2025. The conference aims to focus on the conservation of the endangered Caspian seal and reducing pollution and habitat destruction. The event will reinforce regional cooperation among littoral states—Iran, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Kazakhstan—aiming to strengthen environmental management, marine biodiversity, and sustainable development under the Tehran Convention framework. This marks a significant step toward protecting the unique biodiversity and ecological health of the Caspian Sea.

Source: [Here](#), 14 October 2025

## **GLOBAL SHIPPING FACES DECISIVE MOMENT AT IMO'S MEPC ES.2**

The International Maritime Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) held its 2nd Extraordinary Session (MEPC ES.2) from October 14 to 17, 2025, to discuss amendments to MARPOL Annex VI focused on mid-term measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, North-East Atlantic ECA designation, NOx regulations, and data system access. However, member states could not reach a consensus on adopting these amendments. As a result, the session adjourned for one year, deferring decisions and continuing work on guidelines, while emphasizing the importance of a global, multilateral approach to shipping decarbonization and addressing climate impact.

Source: [Here](#), 14 October 2025

## **NIO GOA HOSTS GEOTRACES SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, MEMBERS FROM 35 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE**

The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Goa hosted the 20th GEOTRACES Scientific Steering Committee meeting in October 2025, with 35 countries participating either in person or online. GEOTRACES is an international program focused on understanding biogeochemical cycles and the distribution of trace elements and isotopes in the oceans. The program aims to study major ocean basins, with India playing a crucial role, particularly in the Indian Ocean. Representatives discussed ongoing research and plans to better understand ocean processes, crucial for protecting marine environments globally.

Source: [Here](#), 14 October 2025

## **EXPERTS CALL FOR ADOPTION OF "BLUE VALUES FRAMEWORK TO SAFEGUARD INDIAN OCEAN BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE**

Experts at the 13th Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Symposium in Mombasa (2025) called for adopting the "Blue Values" framework to safeguard the Indian Ocean's benefits for people and nature. The framework emphasizes balancing economic use, environmental care, and community well-being, recognizing ecosystem services beyond fisheries and tourism, such as biodiversity, cultural heritage, and coastal protection. It advocates scientific data-driven governance, coastal community involvement, and investments focused on restoring ocean health. Embedding Blue Values in marine spatial planning, fisheries, climate strategies, and coastal policies is vital for sustainable livelihoods, resilience, and long-term regional prosperity.

Source: [Here](#), 14 October 2025

# GEOPOLITICS

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## **'MULTIPOLARITY GOING TO BE MESSY, AI TAKING CENTRESTAGE IN GEOPOLITICS': TOP QUOTES FROM JAISHANKAR'S SPEECH AT KEC**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC) 2025, emphasized that the evolving global order is marked by multipolarity, which he described as "going to be messy," with artificial intelligence (AI) taking centre stage in geopolitics. He highlighted the weaponization of interdependence, shifting alliances, and weakening international rules, pointing to the intense strategic competition between China and the US. Jaishankar stressed India's need for resilience through stronger manufacturing, infrastructure, balanced global partnerships, and strategic multi-alignment, avoiding extremes in diplomatic assessments. He also noted the profound impact of AI on global power dynamics.

Source: [Here](#), 05 October 2025

## **AFTER 55 YEARS, INDIA-TONGA TIES ARE A BEACON FOR INDO-PACIFIC SOLIDARITY**

India-Tonga diplomatic relations, established in 1970, highlight over 55 years of partnership rooted in shared sovereignty, democracy, and cultural ties. Notable milestones include royal visits from Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV to India (1971, 1976) and Indira Gandhi's historic Tonga visit (1981). India has supported Tonga with military training, capacity building, and developmental aid. Both nations engage through forums like FIPIC, focusing on climate resilience, security, and sustainable development. This enduring relationship exemplifies Indo-Pacific solidarity and a blueprint for regional cooperation amid contemporary challenges.

Source: [Here](#), 05 October 2025

## **INDIA, AUSTRALIA EYE UPGRADE IN TIES WITH SUBMARINE AND INFORMATION-SHARING PACT**

India and Australia have upgraded their strategic relationship by signing three key defence agreements in October 2025: a pact on mutual submarine rescue cooperation, a formal information-sharing agreement, and terms of reference for joint staff talks. These pacts enhance real-time intelligence exchange, improve maritime domain awareness and anti-submarine capabilities, and foster greater operational coordination between both militaries. The agreements mark a significant step in defence industry collaboration, joint training, and technology exchange, positioning both countries as "top-tier" security partners in the Indo-Pacific against rising regional threats and underpinning their commitments to a free, rules-based maritime order.

Source: [Here](#), 07 October 2025

## **INDIA, AUSTRALIA TO DEEPEN COOPERATION FOR 'FREE AND OPEN' INDO-PACIFIC**

India and Australia deepened their cooperation for a free, open, and resilient Indo-Pacific during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's October 2025 visit to Canberra. The two countries signed three key defence agreements on information sharing, submarine rescue cooperation, and joint staff talks, formalizing their military collaboration. They unveiled a Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap focusing on anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance, defence innovation, and blue economy security. The partnership, rooted in Quad alliance objectives, reinforces freedom of navigation, lawful sea use per UNCLOS, and regional stability amid rising Indo-Pacific challenges.

Source: [Here](#), 10 October 2025

## **'FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC': US AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SERGIO GOR MEETS NSA DOVAL; DISCUSSES DEFENCE, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Sergio Gor, confirmed as the US Ambassador to India in October 2025, met India's NSA Ajit Doval to discuss strengthening the "free and open Indo-Pacific" partnership. The talks covered defence cooperation, trade, technology, and critical mineral collaboration amid efforts to reset US-India ties. Gor emphasized advancing the strategic partnership despite recent trade tensions and tariff issues. His appointment signals Washington's prioritization of India in regional geopolitics and economic engagement. The meeting reflects ongoing high-level diplomatic efforts to align on security and economic interests in the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#), 12 October 2025