

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

INDIAN PRESENCE IN CHAGOS ISLANDS IS CRUCIAL FOR MARITIME SECURITY

India's growing presence in the Chagos Islands, formalized through recent agreements with Mauritius, is crucial for regional maritime security and counterbalancing China's influence in the Indian Ocean. India secured rights to establish a satellite tracking and monitoring station in the archipelago, conduct hydrographic surveys, and assist with maritime patrols—all in coordination with Mauritius, following the UK's handover of sovereignty over the islands except Diego Garcia. These developments allow India to enhance maritime domain awareness, support partner capacity, and contribute to keeping vital sea lanes secure, reinforcing both its strategic partnerships and its vision of a stable, open Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#) 22 Oct 2025

INDIA, ASEAN RENEW COMMITMENT TO MARITIME SECURITY AND TRADE, DEEPEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

India and ASEAN have reaffirmed their commitment to maritime security and trade, seeing their partnership as crucial for Indo-Pacific stability and sustainable growth. The 2025 ASEAN–India Summit highlighted ongoing trade agreement reviews and announced 2026 as the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation. India will strengthen disaster response, host new maritime exercises, promote renewable energy training, and boost cooperation in education, green energy, and emerging technologies. This strategic partnership is positioned as a central pillar for an inclusive, rules-based regional order, linking maritime safety with economic resilience and connectivity.

Source: [Here](#) 26 Oct 2025

MARITIME SECURITY IS 'DYNAXIC', NOT JUST THREAT CONTROL: NAVY CHIEF

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi describes maritime security as a “dynaxic” challenge—dynamic and complex—demanding more than threat containment alone. He highlights rising commercial disruptions, transnational crimes like IUU fishing and trafficking, and fast-evolving technologies that bring both opportunity and vulnerability. Tripathi calls for holistic solutions integrating deterrence, law enforcement, environmental protection, and humanitarian actions. He stresses the need for collective regional cooperation and context-specific responses, noting that broad, universal solutions won't suffice in today's turbulent Indo-Pacific maritime environment.

Source: [Here](#) 28 Oct 2025

INDIAN NAVY HOSTS 7TH INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON PROMOTING HOLISTIC MARITIME SECURITY AND GROWTH

The Indian Navy hosted the 7th Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2025 in New Delhi, bringing together naval leaders, policymakers, diplomats, and experts from across the region to advance holistic maritime security and growth. The theme focused on “Promoting Holistic Maritime Security and Growth: Regional Capacity-Building and Capability-Enhancement,” with discussion emphasizing cooperation, climate resilience, and the need for joint strategies to address both traditional and non-traditional threats. India’s maritime policy vision, MAHASAGAR, underpinned proceedings, calling for multilateral collaboration to ensure economic and security prosperity for the Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#) 28 Oct 2025

SUNKEN SHIPS, RISING RISKS: PACIFIC SHIPWRECKS AND MARITIME SECURITY

Pacific maritime security faces growing risks from sunken shipwrecks, with over 60 identified as posing a critical threat of oil spills and ecosystem damage. Yet, international attention focuses mainly on “hard” security issues like military bases and illegal fishing, while ecological dangers—including shipwreck pollution, climate change, and environmental degradation—remain underfunded and under-addressed. Pacific leaders have urged for maritime security strategies that prioritize environmental and human security, proposing regional frameworks for proactive wreck remediation and integrated disaster response. International agreements and investments must evolve to close this gap and reflect the needs of the Pacific community.

Source: [Here](#) 30 Oct 2025

MARITIME FORCES

SAUDI ARABIA AND CHINA TO CONDUCT JOINT EXERCISE IN THE GULF

The Saudi Arabia-China joint naval exercise, Blue Sword 2025, held in October at King Abdulaziz Naval Base in Jubail, marked the third iteration of this bilateral drill. The three-week exercise aimed to enhance operational readiness, tactical coordination, and expertise exchange between the Royal Saudi Naval Forces and the Chinese PLA Navy. Training included scenarios like maritime assault, hostage rescue, counter-terrorism, underwater mine detection, and live-fire drills. The relocation of the exercise to Saudi Arabia’s eastern fleet base highlighted a focus on

real-combat conditions. This exercise reflects the deepening of military ties alongside the expansion of economic cooperation between the countries.

Source: [Here](#) 17 Oct 2025

INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP REACHES TANZANIA AS PART OF INDIA'S SAGAR VISION

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sachet, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel, visited Zanzibar, Tanzania, in October 2025 as part of India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision. The visit aimed to enhance maritime cooperation and regional partnership through professional interactions with Tanzanian maritime and defence agencies, focusing on maritime search and rescue, pollution response, and law enforcement. Community outreach activities included a beach clean-up and cultural exchanges like yoga sessions, highlighting India's commitment to environmental conservation, capacity building, and people-to-people ties in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Source: [Here](#) 21 Oct 2025

INDIA'S DAC APPROVES \$9BN FOR ARMED FORCES ENHANCEMENTS

India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved Rs 79,000 crore (~\$9 billion) in October 2025 for modernizing the Navy, Army, and Air Force. Key acquisitions include Landing Platform Docks and Advanced Lightweight Torpedoes for the Navy, 30mm Naval Surface Guns, Electro-Optical Infra-Red Search and Track Systems, and smart ammunition. The Army will procure the Nag Missile System Mk-II, Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Intelligence System, and High Mobility Vehicles with cranes. The Air Force gained clearance for the Collaborative Long Range Target Saturation/Destruction System with autonomous capabilities. These procurements aim to enhance operational readiness, self-reliance, and combat effectiveness across domains.

Source: [Here](#) 24 Oct 2025

INDIA, JAPAN STRENGTHEN NAVAL COOPERATION AS INS *SAHYADRI* MAKES PORT CALL AT SASEBO

The Indian Navy's INS *Sahyadri*, an indigenously built Shivalik-class guided missile stealth frigate, made a port call at Japan's Sasebo base in October 2025 as part of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JAIMEX-25). During the harbour phase, Indian and Japanese naval crews engaged in professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, and joint operational planning, including a yoga camp to strengthen camaraderie. INS *Sahyadri* also participated in advanced anti-submarine warfare and missile defence drills with Japanese vessels, enhancing interoperability and reinforcing the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership aimed at promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [Here](#) 28 Oct 2025

INDIA TO HOST HISTORIC MARITIME CONVERGENCE IN VISAKHAPATNAM IN FEBRUARY 2026

India will host a landmark maritime convergence in Visakhapatnam from February 15–25, 2026, featuring the International Fleet Review (IFR), Exercise MILAN, and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs. These events, held collectively for the first time, will operationalise the MAHASAGAR vision for holistic maritime security and growth, highlighting India’s role as a “Preferred Security Partner.” Highlights include the Presidential Fleet Review, advanced naval and international exercises focusing on interoperability and domain awareness, multinational maritime parades, and an international seminar to discuss collaboration, disaster relief, and emerging technologies. The event is also expected to boost economic benefits for the region.

Source: [Here](#) 31 Oct 2025

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

GOA’S MORMUGAO PORT SET TO SIGN ₹3,000 CRORE MoUs AT INDIA MARITIME WEEK

Goa’s Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) is set to sign 24 MoUs worth ₹3,000 crore during India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai. The agreements focus on redeveloping port berths, solar power projects, and infrastructure improvements to boost cargo handling from 65 to 100 million metric tonnes by 2035. Plans include upgrading berth No. 9 for iron ore and general cargo, a new cruise terminal berth, and expanding container vessel handling. MPA, India’s first green port, currently meets all its power needs from solar and aims to further enhance sustainability with additional solar capacity and smart port technologies like 5G.

Source: [Here](#) 16 Oct 2025

MARITIME SECURITY, THE ACHILLES’ HEEL OF AFRICAN PORTS

Maritime security is a critical vulnerability for African ports, impacting economic competitiveness and national sovereignty. Despite significant investments in port infrastructure, security remains secondary, leading to threats like piracy, trafficking, illegal fishing, and smuggling. Fragmented

governance, reliance on foreign entities, and underfunded enforcement hinder port safety. Models like PortSec in Douala, Cameroon, demonstrate successful integration of technology, training, and regional cooperation, reducing cargo theft and improving security. Strengthening maritime governance, regional collaboration, and sustainable funding is essential to transform ports into secure, economically resilient hubs, supporting Africa's blue economy ambitions.

Source: [Here](#) 18 Oct 2025

SHIP-TO-SHIP BUNKERING SERVICE BEGINS AT VIZHINJAM PORT

Vizhinjam International Seaport has launched a ship-to-ship (STS) bunkering service, allowing container ships to refuel locally rather than relying on foreign ports like Colombo. The service started with Adani Bunkering Company's MT Shaun 1 transferring Very Low Sulfur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) to the container ship MSC Akhiteta II. This reduces the need for ships to carry excess fuel, increasing cargo capacity and lowering costs. Plans include expanding bunkering facilities with fuel farms and liquid berths, positioning Vizhinjam as a key refuelling and transshipment hub in India, enhancing maritime competitiveness and revenue generation for the region.

Source: [Here](#) 19 Oct 2025

USTR PORT FEE SHOCKWAVE HITS CHINESE SHIPPING AND VEHICLE CARRIER SECTORS

The US Trade Representative (USTR) has introduced new port fees effective October 14, 2025, targeting Chinese-owned, operated, and built vessels calling at U.S. ports to counter China's dominance in shipbuilding and container shipping. These tiered fees start at \$50 per net ton, increasing annually to \$140 by 2028, with additional container fees. The fees could erode a large portion of Chinese carriers' profits and prompt restructuring. These added costs are expected to raise freight rates by 10-40% or more per container, impacting global shipping prices and leading carriers to consider alternate routes or reducing US port calls.

Source: [Here](#) 29 Oct 2025

INDIA MARITIME WEEK, 2025 SECURES INVESTMENT OF ₹12 LAKH CRORES, SET TO BOLSTER MARITIME SECTOR OF 'ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT'

India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai secured over ₹12 Lakh Crores in investments and saw the signing of 600+ MoUs across port development, sustainability, shipbuilding, and trade facilitation. The event, with participation from 85+ countries and 1,00,000 delegates, highlighted India's strategic Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 driving green ports, digital transformation, blue economy growth, and global maritime leadership. Key initiatives include shipping fleet expansion, eco-friendly tug deployment, dredging fleet modernisation, and development of

maritime corridors to boost trade connectivity. Industry leaders and multiple Union and state ministers participated, underscoring India's rising maritime prominence and global cooperation focus.

Source: [Here](#) 30 Oct 2025

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

NMDC GROUP, EAD JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT THE EMIRATE'S MARINE ECOSYSTEM

NMDC Group and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) have entered into a five-year strategic collaboration to protect Abu Dhabi's marine ecosystem. This partnership covers 13 key areas focused on preventing pollution, combating climate change, and safeguarding marine biodiversity and natural resources. NMDC has provided and operates 14 advanced marine water quality buoys to enhance real-time monitoring and data collection across the emirate's waters, enabling better environmental management. The initiative aligns public and private sector efforts to advance the UAE's marine sustainability goals through upgraded water quality management and nature-based solutions.

Source: [Here](#) 16 Oct 2025

IRAN HIGHLIGHTS PRESERVING MARINE ENVIRONMENT AT MEPC

Iran emphasized the importance of protecting the marine environment at the recent Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) extraordinary session held at IMO headquarters in London, October 14-17, 2025. Ali Mousavi, Iran's IMO representative, called for balanced implementation of international environmental commitments, considering economic capacities of developing countries to avoid undue pressure. He stressed international cooperation to safeguard marine ecosystems from industrial and shipping-related pollution. The MEPC focused on reducing ship-source pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, ballast water management, and pollution preparedness. Iran is also preparing to host COP 7 under the Tehran Convention to further regional marine environment protection efforts.

Source: [Here](#) 17 Oct 2025

THE 100-YEAR PLASTIC PROBLEM: OCEAN PLASTICS COULD LINGER A CENTURY

Ocean plastics degrade slowly, not sink rapidly, causing persistent pollution for over a century. A new model by Queen Mary University of London shows that most large, buoyant plastics fragment into microplastics over decades, with about 10% still floating after 100 years. These microplastics hitch rides on marine snow to ocean depths, but the process is slow. This slow

degradation creates a long-lasting intergenerational pollution problem, requiring century-scale mitigation strategies beyond cleanup, focusing on reducing plastic input and improving waste management globally.

Source: [Here](#) 27 Oct 2025

ADELAIDE'S HOLDFAST COAST BATTLES ALGAL BLOOM AS TOURISM AND MARINE LIFE SUFFER

Adelaide's Holdfast Coast has been severely affected by an unprecedented harmful algal bloom since March 2025, causing massive marine life deaths and disrupting tourism. The bloom, driven by nutrient-rich floodwaters from the River Murray, a cold-water upwelling, and a marine heatwave linked to climate change, has spread over 1,500 km of coastline. Dead fish, turtles, and dolphins have washed ashore due to oxygen depletion or disrupted food chains. Local businesses face steep declines in visitors, and some oyster farms closed after detecting toxins. The government has launched a \$102.5 million Algal Bloom Summer Plan to mitigate impacts. Experts warn this event is a global climate change warning.

Source: [Here](#) 28 Oct 2025

THE 14-BILLION-DOLLAR CALL TO SAVE WORLD'S VANISHING KELP FORESTS

Kelp forests are critical marine ecosystems providing carbon absorption, biodiversity, and supporting fisheries worth \$500 billion annually. They face severe threats, losing up to 60% globally in 50 years due to climate change, pollution, and overgrazing by sea urchins. Conservation efforts focus on ecosystem-based approaches like controlling herbivores, reseedling, and improving water quality. A \$14 billion global investment target aims to protect and restore millions of hectares by 2040. Kelp forests are vital for climate resilience, marine life habitats, and sustaining coastal livelihoods, making their preservation a global environmental priority.

Source: [Here](#) 29 Oct 2025

GEOPOLITICS

IMO FAILS TO ADOPT AND ADJOURNS FOR ONE YEAR THE NET-ZERO FRAMEWORK

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) failed to adopt the Net-Zero Framework in October 2025, voting to adjourn discussions for one year amid contentious debates. The framework, designed to set global standards for shipping decarbonization including a carbon pricing mechanism, faced opposition from countries like the US, Russia, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. While 63 states supported it earlier in 2025, the session ended with 57 in favor of delay and 49 against. Critics warn this postponement delays critical climate action for shipping; proponents urge renewed efforts to adopt by 2026.

Source: [Here](#) 17 Oct 2025

INDIAN OCEAN REGION HAS BECOME THE CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY GEOPOLITICS: RAJNATH SINGH

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has become a critical center of contemporary geopolitics due to its strategic, economic, and environmental significance. It hosts major sea lines of communication (SLOCs) vital for global trade and energy shipments, with approximately 80% of global maritime oil trade passing through. India, positioned centrally, seeks to balance power and ensure regional stability through initiatives like SAGAR and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. Rising Chinese naval presence and rivalry with India, as well as tensions involving Pakistan, add complexity. India's leadership role focuses on maritime security, cooperation, and sustainable growth to secure the IOR's future.

Source: [Here](#) 24 Oct 2025

HOW ROSATOM IS TURNING ARCTIC GEOPOLITICS INTO INFRASTRUCTURE

Rosatom has transformed itself from an energy company into Russia's strategic Arctic architect, merging nuclear engineering, maritime logistics, and diplomacy. It manages the Northern Sea Route (NSR) infrastructure, nuclear icebreakers, and digital logistics platforms. The October 2025 Harbin agreement with China formalized cooperation for the NSR as a "sustainable transport artery" linking Asia and Europe. Rosatom oversees port modernization, safety infrastructure, and Arctic-class shipping, combining state investment with commercial operations while addressing sanctions-driven challenges. It promotes nuclear propulsion as a green solution, cooperating with India, ASEAN, and Gulf nations to embed the NSR in Asia's trade.

Source: [Here](#) 24 Oct 2025

PM MODI DECLARES 2026 AS ASEAN-INDIA YEAR OF MARITIME COOPERATION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared 2026 as the "ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation" during the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit on October 26, 2025. This initiative aims to deepen cooperation in maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), the blue economy, and maritime connectivity. It highlights India's commitment to reinforcing ASEAN centrality within its Act East Policy and strengthening strategic, economic, and cultural ties with ASEAN nations. The year will focus on enhancing regional stability, sustainable maritime growth, and collaboration in digital inclusion, resilient supply chains, and ocean governance. Modi called it a foundation for global stability and growth.

Source: [Here](#) 26 Oct 2025

CABOTAGE GEOPOLITICS AS A NEW LEVERAGE FOR INDIA

India is using cabotage policy as a tool for greater maritime leverage, focusing on aggressive ship reflagging by global container lines. This signals a strategic alignment between enforcing cabotage (restricting domestic shipping to national-flagged vessels), developing maritime infrastructure, and advancing commercial power. This approach allows India to enhance control over its coastal trade, boost indigenous shipping capacity, and project its influence in the region while attracting international partners to align with Indian cabotage rules as a prerequisite for market access.

Source: [Here](#) 27 Oct 2025