

# **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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## **NSA DOVAL, THAI FOREIGN MINISTER PHUANGKETKEOW DISCUSS MARITIME SECURITY, THREATS OF ONLINE SCAMS**

NSA Ajit Doval met Thai FM Sihasak Phuangketkeow to boost strategic ties, focusing on maritime security in the Andaman Sea and countering Myanmar-Cambodia cyber scams trapping 1,000+ Indians. Thailand invites India to the Dec 17-18 Bangkok anti-scam conference. EAM Jaishankar calls Thailand a key maritime neighbour, advancing trade, connectivity amid Myanmar peace efforts. Thailand seeks BRICS entry during India's 2026 chairmanship for regional integration.

Source: [Here](#) 03 December 2025

## **SHIP IN BAB EL-MANDEB STRAIT ATTACKED BY SUSPECTED PIRATES**

A bulk carrier transiting the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Friday faced two attacks by suspected pirates in smaller vessels that opened fire, according to UK Maritime Trade Operations and Diaplous Group. Armed guards aboard the ship returned fire effectively, ensuring crew safety with no injuries reported. The strait, linking the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, has witnessed Houthi strikes over the Israel-Hamas war and Somali piracy resurgence; Houthis paused operations amid the Gaza ceasefire, heightening piracy risks amid fragile truce and regional instability. India monitors Indian Ocean implications.

Source: [Here](#) 05 December 2025

## **WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN FACES \$1.14 BILLION MARITIME SECURITY THREAT**

Gulf monarchies reshape Red Sea-Horn geopolitics as U.S. retrenchment under President Trump elevates the UAE's assertive ports network and Saudi diplomacy amid Iran-Turkey threats. Abu Dhabi backed Ethiopia's 2018 transition, Eritrea rapprochement, yet fuels Sudan RSF for gold-anti-Islamist gains, risking chaos. Maritime footholds in Somalia, Djibouti extend economic leverage; mixed outcomes—from Ethiopian stability to Sudan polarisation—demand pragmatic engagement to harness Gulf capital without destabilisation.

Source: [Here](#) 08 December 2025

## **RISING PIRACY THREATS IN ASIAN WATERS REACH FIVE-YEAR PEAK**

Asia's piracy reaches five-year peak in 2025, with ReCAAP recording 127 incidents by early December—surpassing 2024's full-year 107 total—driven by Singapore Strait robberies exceeding 80 in H1 alone, marking an 83% regional surge January-June. Bulk carriers face rampant engine component thefts through stealthy low-visibility boardings exploiting congestion and slow transits; Malacca-Singapore endures as the primary hotspot. Vietnam, Indonesia, and India report escalating opportunistic thefts of stores, spares, and lubricants; authorities stress 24/7 vigilant watchkeeping, enhanced deck lighting, auto-alarms, crew patrols, and immediate incident reporting to empower coordinated patrols and deter escalation.

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

## **RED SEA ATTACKS THREATEN GLOBAL MARITIME SECURITY AND TRADE**

Houthi attacks in the Red Sea resume aggressively in July 2025 after a six-month lull, sinking MV Magic Seas and bulk carrier MV Eternity C via gunfire, rockets, and explosive boats—the first direct commercial losses this year amid 190+ strikes since 2023. Bab el-Mandeb chokepoint (12-15% global trade) crippled; 80-90% vessels reroute around Africa, adding 10-14 days transit, \$1M+ fuel costs per trip, insurance premiums surging 20x, Suez revenues halved. Naval coalitions (Prosperity Guardian, Aspides) intercept threats but lack southern coverage; EU/UN condemn war crimes, demand permanent patrols, interdictions, and diplomacy for secure passage. India monitors Indian Ocean spillovers.

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

# **MARITIME FORCES**

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## **THEATERISATION: INDIAN MARITIME DOCTRINE 2025 SEEKS TO BOLSTER MILITARY JOINTNESS**

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi released the Indian Maritime Doctrine 2025, prioritising tri-service jointness and interoperability to advance theaterisation amid differing service views, particularly Air Force reservations on theatre confinement. The apex guidance document—first in 2004, revised 2009/2015—formalises 'no-war, no-peace' grey zone as a distinct conflict spectrum, integrating SF, airborne, and multi-domain doctrines. It addresses adversary hybrid tactics, space/cyber/cognitive domains, uncrewed systems amid evolving

threats, aligning with Viksit Bharat 2047 via maritime power centrality for regional influence and secure Indo-Pacific order.

Source: [Here](#), 03 December 2025

## **INDIAN NAVY'S OPERATIONAL DEMONSTRATION OF MARITIME STRENGTH MARKS NAVY DAY 2025 AT SHANGUMUGHAM BEACH, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Indian Navy showcased operational prowess at Navy Day 2025's spectacular demonstration on Shangumugham Beach, Thiruvananthapuram, on December 3, graced by President Droupadi Murmu, Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Over 20 ships, including indigenous carrier INS Vikrant, submarines, air assets, and MARCOS commandos executed thrilling coordinated maneuvers displaying combat power, precision, and readiness. Highlights featured Hornpipe dance by Sea Cadet Corps, cultural performances, Continuity Drill, Beating Retreat, and sunset illumination. Commemorating 1971's Operation Trident, the event underscores the Navy's evolution to a Builder's Navy under Aatmanirbhar Bharat, upholding the MAHASAGAR vision for a secure Indo-Pacific maritime order.

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

## **KUWAITI, INDIAN NAVAL FORCES CONDUCT JOINT EXERCISE TO BOOST MARITIME READINESS**

Kuwaiti and Indian naval forces conducted a joint exercise to enhance maritime readiness amid regional security challenges. The drill featured coordinated maneuvers, communication protocols, and tactical operations between Kuwait Navy vessels and Indian warships deployed in the Arabian Sea. Focused on interoperability, anti-piracy tactics, and maritime domain awareness, the exercise strengthens bilateral defence ties under strategic partnerships. It underscores India's expanding naval presence in West Asia, bolstering collective security in vital Indian Ocean trade routes against threats like Houthi disruptions and piracy resurgence, aligning with the MAHASAGAR vision for regional stability.

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

## **MAZAGON DOCK SIGN MOU WITH BRAZILIAN AND INDIAN NAVIES**

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders signed a strategic MoU with the Brazilian Navy and the Indian Navy on December 9, 2025, focusing on Scorpene-class submarine maintenance and broader defence cooperation, disclosed to stock exchanges on December 10 via SEBI filing. The agreement creates frameworks for joint procurement, supply chain collaboration, operational knowledge exchange, R&D partnerships, and technological innovation in naval systems. This milestone enhances Mazagon's global naval defence position, leveraging shipbuilding expertise

amid Indo-Pacific security needs, fostering bilateral maritime ties, and *Aatmanirbhar* Bharat through indigenous capabilities.

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

## **CONCLUSION OF CNS VISIT TO BRAZIL**

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Indian Navy Chief, concluded his official visit to Brazil (9-12 Dec 2025) aimed at bolstering maritime partnership. He engaged with senior officials, including the defence minister, the Joint Staff Chief, and the Navy Commander, focusing on bilateral cooperation and defence industry ties. Key outcome: MoU signed between the Indian Navy, the Brazilian Navy, and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for Scorpene-class submarine and vessel maintenance information exchange. CNS toured Itaguai Naval Complex, NAM Atlantico carrier, and attended Passing Out Parade of 140 midshipmen at Rio de Janeiro Naval Academy, reinforcing shared security, training goals in Indo-Pacific.

Source: [Here](#), 15 December 2025

# **SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY**

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## **CHENNAI TO ARCTIC: INDIA-RUSSIA MULTIPLE PACTS WIDEN MARITIME CORRIDORS**

India and Russia signed multiple MoUs during President Putin's visit, advancing Arctic maritime cooperation and Eurasian corridors amid India's expanding logistics ambitions. Key pacts target INSTC (via Chabahar), Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor for crude/coking coal, and Northern Sea Route, with regular Arctic consultations and India's Arctic Council observer role. MoPSW-Russia Transport MoU trains Indian seafarers for polar waters; another with the Russian Maritime Board covers shipping, ports, joint mineral exploration, and R&D. These bolster connectivity, infrastructure, and strategic trade bypassing chokepoints amid Indo-Pacific tensions.

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

## **GUJARAT LAUNCHES SMART BLUE HARBOURS TO BOOST FISHERIES, FOOD SECURITY, AND COASTAL ECONOMY**

Gujarat launched the Smart Blue Harbours initiative to revolutionise the fisheries sector, enhancing food security and coastal economies across 63 fishing harbours. Chief Minister

Bhupendra Patel inaugurated modernised facilities with digital auctions, cold chains, AI surveillance, automated berthing, and solar-powered infrastructure, boosting fish handling capacity 3x to 10 lakh tonnes annually. Aligned with the Blue Economy vision, the Rs 1,200-crore project generates 50,000 jobs, cuts post-harvest losses by 40%, and integrates blockchain traceability for exports amid India's \$8B seafood trade surge. This maritime upgrade strengthens resilient supply chains and sustainable livelihoods in the Indo-Pacific fisheries hub.

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

## **INDIA BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF ITS FIRST ZERO-EMISSION GREEN TUG FOR DEENDAYAL PORT**

India initiated construction of its first zero-emission all-electric green tug for Deendayal Port (Kandla), Gujarat, under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways' Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP). Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the steel-cutting ceremony virtually; the 60-tonne bollard pull vessel replaces diesel tugs with zero carbon emissions and superior efficiency using non-fossil fuels like methanol, hydrogen, and ammonia. Launched in 2024 under Panch Karma Sankalp, Rs 1,000-crore GTTP targets phasing out conventional tugs by 2027, half green by 2030 per Maritime Vision 2030, boosting Blue Economy and Make in India.

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

## **INDIA'S MARITIME SECTOR AT INFLECTION POINT: A STRUCTURAL OPPORTUNITY UNFOLDS**

India's maritime sector stands at an inflection point, poised for structural growth amid global supply chain shifts and the *Aatmanirbhar* Bharat push. Key opportunities span shipbuilding (targeting 1,000 vessels by 2030), port modernisation (*Sagarmala* expanding capacity 2x), green shipping (GTTP green tugs, methanol/ammonia fuels), and defence indigenisation via Mazagon Dock, Centum-Indra alliances. Rising FDI, PLI schemes, and corridors like INSTC/Chennai-Vladivostok enhance trade resilience against disruptions in the Red Sea. Analysts project \$100B+ investments, 5M jobs by 2047, positioning India as a top-5 global maritime power under Viksit Bharat maritime vision.

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

## **MARITIME CALL FOR ATMANIRBHARTA: WHY INDIA NEEDS A LOCAL P&I CLUB**

India relies 90% on London-based International Group P&I clubs for shipowner liability insurance covering oil spills, cargo damage, pollution, collisions amid \$ trillions in risks, exposing trade to geopolitical shocks like EU-Russia sanctions stranding Nayara Energy crude shipments. Foreign dominance disrupts refineries, Sagarmala ports, and domestic operators via cartel decisions; China/Russia built sovereign clubs for resilience. MoPSW pushes mutual Indian P&I

Club via IRDAI reforms, GIC Re-private synergy, South-South pacts to ringfence maritime self-reliance under Viksit Bharat 2047, fortifying energy security and global ambitions.

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

# MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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## PLASTIC-FREE COASTLINES: INDIA-NORWAY COLLABORATION FOR BLUE PROSPERITY

India-Norway Marine Pollution and Plastic Waste Forum 2025 in Mumbai advances bilateral blue economy partnership launched 2019 by PM Modi and former Norwegian PM Solberg, tackling 75-199M tonnes ocean plastics (19-23M tonnes annual leakage, tripling by 2040). Initiative supports five projects on circular models, waste management, river monitoring, citizen clean-ups; extended to 2030 with more states, private sector, youth. Norway commits ₹1,300 crore globally since 2018; India's single-use plastic ban complements Norwegian expertise in producer accountability, fostering clean coasts, resilient fisheries, tourism for blue prosperity amid \$13B annual ecosystem damages.

Source: [Here](#), 01 December 2025

## SCIENTISTS' GLOBAL CALL TO SAVE OCEAN'S HIDDEN MARINE ANIMAL FOREST

Over 500 scientists issued a global call to protect Marine Animal Forests—hidden deep-sea ecosystems of vulnerable corals, sponges, gorgonians thriving in cold, dark waters, sequestering blue carbon equivalent to tropical forests while hosting immense biodiversity. These fragile habitats, spanning 25-30% ocean floor, face existential threats from destructive bottom trawling, mining, climate change, with 80%+ trawling impacts irreversible. Urgent demands: expand marine protected areas beyond 30x30 targets, ban destructive fishing on seamounts/reefs, enforce traceability, fund restoration via Blue Economy frameworks. India's Andaman deep-sea surveys underscore Indo-Pacific protection imperative.

Source: [Here](#), 03 December 2025

## INDIA'S FIRST DEEP SEA MARINE MICROBIAL RESEARCH FACILITY COMING UP IN ANDHRA'S NELLORE

India's first Deep Sea Marine Microbial Repository is under construction at NIOT's sea-front campus near Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, to study microbes from extreme deep-sea environments in the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean. NIOT catalogued 1,000+ strains thriving under high pressure, low temperature, without sunlight, producing novel molecules for medical,

industrial, and environmental applications. State-of-the-art facility features cryo-freezers, cutting-edge equipment, and a Deep-sea Microbial Culture lab that mimics high-pressure conditions for isolation and culturing. NIOT Director Balaji Ramakrishnan said it will document microbes for researchers, startups to commercialise products, and advance Blue Economy biotech frontiers.

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

## **CARIBBEAN REEFS HAVE LOST 48% OF HARD CORAL SINCE 1980, STUDY FINDS**

Caribbean reefs lost 48% hard coral cover since 1980, per a Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network study across 45,000+ surveys, with live coral dropping from 25% to 13% amid bleaching, hurricanes, pollution, and overfishing. Only 7% reefs show recovery; 40% in critical decline despite marine protections. Urgent calls target 30x30 ocean safeguards, local stressors reduction, and restoration funding. Global implications warn Indo-Pacific reefs (India's Lakshadweep-Andamans) face similar trajectories from warming, cyclones; demand resilient Blue Economy strategies, coral propagation tech, fisheries reform for maritime security.

Source: [Here](#), 09 December 2025

## **SEA URCHIN SPECIES ON BRINK OF EXTINCTION AFTER MARINE PANDEMIC**

*Diadema antillarum* sea urchins, vital Caribbean reef herbivores controlling algae, face functional extinction after the 2024 marine pandemic killed 90-100% populations from Florida Keys to Mexico, Brazil, echoing the 1983-84 die-off that halved reefs. Mass die-offs linked to novel pathogen devastating adults, leaving barren urchin barrens amid climate stressors; survivors too few for recovery. Urgent interventions demand captive breeding, restoration, and pathogen research; global warnings flag Indo-Pacific echinoderm vulnerabilities (India's *Diacavolinia* pteropods), threatening Blue Economy fisheries, coral resilience, and maritime food security.

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

# **GEOPOLITICS**

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## **HOW GEOPOLITICS IS COMPLICATING THE MOVE TO CLEAN ENERGY**

Geopolitics complicates clean energy transition as US-China rivalry fragments nickel supply chains vital for EV batteries, solar panels. Indonesia, the world's top nickel producer, deepened ties with China via \$10B+ investments in processing plants despite environmental disasters, worker deaths, and rejecting US Inflation Reduction Act incentives for "friendshoring." Beijing controls 70% global refining; Washington bans Chinese batteries, pushes domestic mining.

Result: price volatility, delayed renewables, heightened Indo-Pacific tensions over critical minerals securing India's green shipping, offshore wind ambitions amid Red Sea disruptions.  
Source: [Here](#), 02 December 2025

## **DRYAD GLOBAL: RISKS SURGE ACROSS PHYSICAL, CYBER AND GEOPOLITICAL FRONTS**

Dryad Global warns of surging maritime risks in 2025 across physical, cyber, and geopolitical domains amid U.S./EU naval withdrawals. Indian Ocean piracy resurges off East Africa, using hijacked vessels for ransoms; Gulf of Guinea persistent illegal boardings despite dips. South China Sea escalates as a geopolitical hotspot with disruptions; cyber threats intensify via AI-ransomware, state-sponsored OT attacks, and autonomous vulnerabilities. Operators face rerouting costs (3-7% fuel hikes), insurance spikes (12-15%), supply chain chaos, demanding proactive intelligence, and enhanced domain awareness for Indo-Pacific resilience.

Source: [Here](#), 03 December 2025

## **TRADE TENSIONS: HOW GEOPOLITICS REWIRES SUPPLY CHAINS**

Geopolitics rewires global supply chains amid US-China decoupling, Red Sea Houthi disruptions forcing 80% Suez reroutes, and Russia-Ukraine sanctions spiking energy costs 300%. Firms diversify via nearshoring (Mexico +25% FDI), friendshoring (India's China+1 gains), and regionalisation, cutting China's reliance from 25% to 15% electronics sourcing. Critical minerals race sees Indonesia nickel pivot to Beijing despite US IRA incentives; India's PLI schemes capture \$20B+ iPhone assembly. Maritime chokepoints amplify risks—Malacca congestion up 40%—demanding resilient corridors like INSTC, dual-sourcing, AI predictive logistics for Indo-Pacific trade security.

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

## **TRANSFORMING GEOPOLITICS: THE INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP IN SOUTH ASIA**

India-US partnership transforms South Asia geopolitics amid China's String of Pearls, deepening maritime security cooperation via Quad, iCET tech transfers, joint exercises like Malabar 2025, and enhancing domain awareness in Andaman Sea chokepoints. Key initiatives: US-India COMCASA elevates secure comms for P-8I surveillance; co-production of drones, sonobuoys bolsters submarine tracking against PLAN threats. Strategic dialogues align on freedom of navigation, countering grey-zone coercion in Lakshadweep-Maldives EEZ; economic pacts accelerate Sagarmala port modernisations with US financing. This convergence fortifies Indo-Pacific resilience, secures \$2T+ trade routes under the MAHASAGAR vision.

Source: [Here](#), 09 December 2025

## **A STRATEGIC STOP IN ADDIS ABABA: HOW INDIA IS REPOSITIONING ITSELF IN AFRICAN GEOPOLITICS**

India repositions in African geopolitics via a strategic Addis Ababa stop, leveraging Ethiopia's Red Sea gateway amid Horn instability. PM Modi's engagements target Chabahar-INSTC extensions for Central Asia bypasses, countering China's Djibouti base, and Gulf port grabs. Key maritime pacts enhance IOR surveillance sharing, joint anti-piracy patrols post-Houthi threats; defence exports surge via BrahMos sales. India funds Berbera corridor upgrades, trains Somali Coast Guard against piracy resurgence threatening \$1T+ trade. This fortifies the MAHASAGAR vision, secures energy imports, and Blue Economy ties versus Beijing's Belt-Road debt traps.

Source: [Here](#), 09 December 2025