

MAKING WAVES

A Maritime News Brief Covering:

- 1. Maritime Security**
- 2. Maritime Forces**
- 3. Shipping, Ports, and Ocean Economy**
- 4. Marine Environment**
- 5. Geopolitics**

CURATED BY:

**Ms Rashmi Yadav,
Research Associate
rsfl.nmf@gmail.com**

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MARITIME SECURITY

NORTHSTANDARD: CEASEFIRE HOLD BUT MARITIME THREATS REMAIN IN THE RED SEA

NorthStandard reports that while a fragile ceasefire holds between Houthis forces and international coalitions, maritime threats persist in the Red Sea with renewed drone/missile risks against Israel/US-linked vessels despite reduced kinetic incidents. BMP5 compliance, AIS deactivation, and armed guards remain mandatory as GPS spoofing/jamming continues, forcing Cape diversions that inflate freight rates (VLCCs \$200k/day) and strain supply chains. UNSC Resolution 2812 extends monitoring for six months; carriers like Maersk/CMA CGM hesitate full Suez resumption amid Hormuz escalation, cyber surges (103% 2025), and India's SAGAR imperatives.

Source: [Here](#), 16 February 2026

SECURITY AGENCIES ALERT ON ILLEGAL USE OF SATELLITE PHONES IN INDIAN WATERS

India's security agencies and the Directorate General of Shipping issued alerts over undeclared satellite phones (Iridium, Zoleo) and messaging devices on vessels in Indian waters, bypassing monitoring in EEZ beyond cellular range. While Iridium is permitted solely for GMDSS distress/safety purposes, Thuraya remains banned; violations face penalties under the Indian Telecommunications Act 2023 and the Merchant Shipping Act 2025, including device confiscation. Amid Hormuz/Red Sea threats, cyber incidents (a 103% surge in 2025), and 285 maritime events (as of January 2026), unregulated communications create surveillance blind spots, prompting stricter port inspections following MILAN/GMC calls for interoperability.

Source: [Here](#), 22 February 2026

MARITIME CYBER INCIDENTS JUMPED 103% IN 2025

Maritime cyber incidents surged 103% in 2025 versus 2024, driven by DDoS, ransomware, and malware targeting vessels, ports, and supply chains. High-profile cases included the "Lab Dookhtegan" VSAT supply-chain attack paralyzing 116 Iranian tankers, Furuno Electric ransomware disrupting ECDIS/radar services globally, and shipyard breaches exposing defence blueprints. OT vulnerabilities like remote engine/ballast control and crew phishing enabled data theft (voyage logs, manifests) sold on the dark web, linking cybersecurity to vessels' "right to operate" amid IMO's Policy-to-Practice campaign.

Source: [Here](#), 24 February 2026

SHIPPING SECURITY RISK INCREASES DRAMATICALLY IN PERSIAN GULF

Seatrade Maritime News highlights rising security threats in the Persian Gulf amid heightened Iran–US tensions and intermittent closures of the Strait of Hormuz, alongside growing risks of crew criminalisation and shipboard fires as key operational challenges. Shipping earnings softened in H1 2025 due to geopolitical disruptions, while H2 projections indicate continued container market volatility and exceptionally strong VLCC spot rates, exceeding \$200,000 per day. Meanwhile, China is expanding tariff-bypassing trade partnerships. In the Singapore Strait, boardings surged by 309% in Q2 2025 (45 incidents, accounting for 85% of the regional total), before Indonesian arrests helped curb the trend.

Source: [Here](#), 28 February 2026

IRAN-ISRAEL CONFLICT: STRAIT OF HORMUZ IN FOCUS AGAIN — WHY IS IT SO SIGNIFICANT?

The Strait of Hormuz—21km wide at its narrowest, linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman—handles 21M bpd oil (20% global supply), 25% LNG, and \$500B trade annually, with 80%+ destined for Asia, including India's 85% energy imports (5.5M bpd crude). US-Israeli strikes on Iran (late February 2026) prompted IRGC VHF warnings banning transits, damaging three tankers and anchoring 150+ vessels, echoing February drills amid nuclear talks. Closure risks \$1B daily losses, Brent at \$120/bbl, forcing Cape reroutes post-Red Sea, as India diversifies via Budget 2026 rare earths.

Source: [Here](#), 28 February 2026

MARITIME FORCES

NEED NAVAL FORCES TO JOIN HANDS TO TACKLE MARITIME THREATS: RAJNATH SINGH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at MILAN 2026 in Visakhapatnam urged global navies to collaborate against escalating maritime threats—terrorism, piracy, trafficking, cyber-attacks (up 103% in 2025), and supply chain disruptions from Red Sea/Hormuz closures—emphasising no single force suffices. Evolving from SAGAR to MAHASAGAR, India champions UNCLOS-based order with ASEAN centrality amid Indo-Pacific flux, as demonstrated by recent trilateral Andaman drills, Australia-ICG ties, Rafale/P-8I procurements, and Budget 2026's ₹7.85 lakh crore defence surge funding Dornier aircraft and submarine upgrades.

Source: [Here](#), 20 February 2026

GOA MARITIME CONCLAVE 2026: NAVY CHIEFS, MARITIME LEADERS DISCUSS UNIFIED APPROACH TO INDIAN OCEAN SECURITY

The 5th Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC-26), hosted by Indian Navy at Naval War College on 21 February 2026, united navy chiefs and leaders from 15 IOR nations under "Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR – Progressing Lines of Efforts to Mitigate Dynamic Threats". Sessions focused on real-time info sharing against IUU fishing/drug trafficking, capacity building via training exchanges, and tech-driven interoperability for cyber/piracy threats (103% surge 2025). Aligned with MAHASAGAR, it reinforced India's convenor role post-MILAN, prioritising collaborative mechanisms for stable seas.

Source: [Here](#), 22 February 2026

INDIAN NAVY'S 'DOLPHIN HUNTER': HOW INS ANJADIP WILL SECURE INDIA'S SHALLOW WATERS FROM STEALTHY THREATS

INS *Anjadip*, the fourth Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), was commissioned by the Indian Navy on 27 February 2026 at Chennai Port under the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative. This 77m, 1,400-tonne vessel with water-jet propulsion hits 25 knots for rapid coastal response, equipped with hull-mounted sonar Abhay, lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mine-laying capability to neutralise stealthy submarine threats in littoral waters. Multi-role for surveillance, LIMO, and SAR, it bolsters Eastern Naval Command security alongside HAL's Dornier deal amid Hormuz/Red Sea risks, and GMC-26 calls for IOR collaboration.

Source: [Here](#), 24 February 2026

DRASS DELIVERS TWO SWIMMER DELIVERY VEHICLES TO INDONESIA

Italian firm DRASS delivered two advanced Swimmer Delivery Vehicles (SDVs) to Indonesia's Ministry of Defence on 26 February 2026, marking the first phase of enhancing TNI-AL's special forces underwater operations. Equipped with autonomous navigation, optronic periscopes, and low-observability for sabotage/intelligence missions, each SDV carries eight divers from submarines/motherships; sea trials validated reliability. DRASS provided operator training via partners CSG/Republik Palindo, strengthening Indonesia's maritime denial in the Malacca Strait/Indo-Pacific hotspots amid recent India-Japan-Indonesia Andaman drills and South Korea's SSN push.

Source: [Here](#), 26 February 2026

SOUTH KOREA IS ALREADY PREPARING FOR NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES

South Korea established a dedicated Nuclear-Powered Submarine Acquisition Promotion Team under its Defence Ministry in January 2026 to oversee SSN development, targeting construction start by 2028 and commissioning by mid-2030s following US President Trump's October 2025 approval. Responding to North Korea's claimed nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine unveiled in December 2025, Seoul pushes special legislation for military nuclear propulsion amid Hanwha Ocean's Future Submarine concept blending AI combat systems with VLS and quiet torpedo tech. This escalates Asia's underwater arms race, bolstering ROKN deterrence while complementing QUAD maritime strategies against China's regional expansion.

Source: [Here](#), 27 February 2026

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

PORT OF HAMBURG EXPANDS TRADE RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Port of Hamburg strengthened trade relations with India through a recent Senate delegation visiting Chennai, Mumbai, and New Delhi to discuss EU-India Free Trade Agreement opportunities. Direct container throughput with India grew 21% from 2020-2024, hitting a 2025 record of 290,000 TEU—nearly 50% up year-over-year—ranking India sixth among Hamburg's key partners. Talks with India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Invest India focused on cargo flows, investments, logistics partnerships, and sustainable port infrastructure like climate-neutral strategies.

Source: [Here](#), 21 February 2026

SHIPPING MINISTER SONOWAL LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR ₹1,500-CRORE PROJECTS AT VOC PORT

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for ₹1,500 crore worth of projects at VO *Chidambaranar* Port on 23 February 2026, advancing Maritime Vision 2047. The initiatives include rail and road connectivity upgrades, power infrastructure, renewable energy projects (8 MW wind farm, 5 MWh battery storage, and green hydrogen), advanced safety systems, and digital platforms, including the VOC Maritime Heritage Museum. These measures aim to improve cargo evacuation, reduce vessel turnaround time, strengthen multimodal

logistics, and position VOC as a green transshipment hub rivalling Port of Colombo while supporting regional shipbuilding, manufacturing, and employment in southern Tamil Nadu.
Source: [Here](#), 23 February 2026

MOPSW APPROVES ₹797 CRORE GREEN HYDROGEN JETTY AT PARADIP PORT TO BOOST CLEAN ENERGY LOGISTICS

India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways approved a ₹797 crore dedicated jetty at Paradip Port on 25 February 2026 for handling 4 MTPA green hydrogen, ammonia, and liquid cargo under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Built on a BOT basis with 14.3m dredged depth and specialised storage/pipelines, the 24-month project receives 20% capital support (₹159cr) from Paradip Port Authority. Minister Sonowal hailed it as future-ready infrastructure linking Odisha's production clusters to global exports, mirroring VOC Port's green hydrogen push and Budget 2026's clean energy logistics amid Red Sea/Hormuz disruptions.

Source: [Here](#), 27 February 2026

VIKSIT GUJARAT: MARITIME, LOGISTICS & EXPORT SUMMIT 2026 CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY WITH STRONG INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION

The Viksit Gujarat: Maritime, Logistics & Export Summit 2026, organised by India Shipping News and Knowledge Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), concluded successfully on 27 February 2026 at Hyatt *Vastrapur*, Ahmedabad, drawing policymakers, port officials, exporters, and logistics leaders. Key highlights included the release of *Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya's* white paper "Port-led Development" and the Gujarat SMILE Awards 2026, honouring logistics/export excellence. Thematic sessions addressed multimodal connectivity, supply chain resilience, and Gujarat's role in *Viksit Bharat@2047*, aligning with Budget 2026's ₹ 5,165 crore ports allocation, BCSL, and the coastal cargo push following the Andaman trilateral drills.

Source: [Here](#), 28 February 2026

APEEJAY SHIPPING TO COMMENCE ANDAMAN SERVICE WITH NEW CONTAINER VESSEL

Apeejay Shipping, part of *Apeejay Surrendra* Group, introduces a dedicated liner service connecting Kolkata to Port Blair with the new 3,000-tonne multi-purpose container vessel APJ Karan 2, equipped with twin 60T cranes for containerised, bulk, and project cargo. The maiden voyage is scheduled to commence in March 2026, enhancing regular scheduled departures to strengthen maritime connectivity and logistics infrastructure, thereby supporting the economic growth of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This initiative follows the acquisition of Kamsarmax bulkers

APJ Priya 2/Priti 2 (mid-2025), aligning with Budget 2026's coastal cargo push post recent India-Japan-Indonesia Andaman drills.
Source: [Here](#), 28 February 2026

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

SCIENTISTS WARN OCEAN GEOENGINEERING COULD DEVASTATE MARINE LIFE WHILE FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Norway is targeting investments in India's maritime and energy sectors following the TEPA agreement with EFTA countries, which entered into force last year. Norwegian Ambassador May-Elin Stener highlighted strong interest from 160+ Norwegian firms, with shipowners already securing shipbuilding contracts in India and plans to expand using oil/gas expertise for renewables like solar. Bilateral trade has doubled in a decade, bolstered by climate collaborations with TERI on marine pollution, plastics, and nature-based solutions.

Source: [Here](#), 20 February 2026

PIONEERING CORAL BREEDING LAB OPENS TO BOOST REEF REGENERATION EFFORTS - ENVIRONMENT COASTAL & OFFSHORE

Canon EMEA, partnering with Coral Spawning International and Nature Seychelles, opened Africa's first land-based coral breeding lab on Praslin Island in the Seychelles as part of the Assisted Recovery of Corals facility. Launched in November 2025, it achieved its first spawning event, producing 800,000 embryos from 14 *Acropora tenuis* cf. *macrostoma* colonies, with 65,000 settling successfully to boost genetic diversity and heat tolerance. Canon's imaging tech enables precise monitoring of spawning, surpassing clonal gardening by fostering resilient reefs against bleaching via out planting and local training.

Source: [Here](#), 23 February 2026

BOAT TRAFFIC DISRUPTS BEHAVIOUR AND POPULATION OF MARINE MEGAFUNA

Boat traffic significantly disrupts marine megafauna like whales, dolphins, seals, manatees, sea turtles, sharks, and rays by altering feeding, movement, communication, and stress levels, with cumulative impacts on populations over time. A global meta-analysis of 40+ years and 200+ studies reveals noise pollution, ship strikes, chemical runoff, and sediment disturbance as key stressors, hitting threatened species like sea turtles hardest in coastal breeding grounds. Experts

recommend dynamic measures—seasonal speed limits, adaptive buffers, targeted closures—over static rules to balance maritime activity with conservation.

Source: [Here](#), 26 Feb 2026

DEEPER OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS ARE UNIQUE— AND UNIQUELY VULNERABLE WITHOUT BETTER PROTECTION

Deeper ocean ecosystems, particularly mesophotic reefs between 30-150m, host unique species like depth-specialist sponges that rarely overlap with shallow reefs, challenging the idea that they serve as refuges for heatwave-damaged shallows. New Zealand research across sites found only 18 of 64 sponge species spanned both zones, showing species replacement creates distinct communities vulnerable to fishing and climate impacts. Current marine reserves mostly protect shallows, covering <1% of the deep seas, urging spatial plans to safeguard full depth profiles for biodiversity resilience.

Source: [Here](#), 27 Feb 2026

GREENLAND'S LARGEST GLACIER COULD SOON REACH A TIPPING POINT, SCIENTISTS SAY

Jakobshavn Glacier—the largest glacier in Greenland—is approaching a critical threshold as meltwater runoff has accelerated sharply since the early 2000s, exceeding 20th-century natural variability by 2007. Warmer summers and coastal ocean temperatures rising above 6°C after 2010 have intensified melting. Darker exposed ice surfaces absorb more heat, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of ice loss from this fast-flowing outlet glacier, potentially accelerating global sea-level rise. Researchers from Kiel University stress the need for sustained long-term monitoring to determine whether a climatic tipping point—capable of altering ocean stratification and regional ecosystems—has already been crossed.

Source: [Here](#), 27 Feb 2026

GEOPOLITICS

WIRED FOR POWER: THE GEOPOLITICS OF SUBSEA CABLES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Subsea cables carry 99% of global internet data, making the South China Sea's network a flashpoint in US-China rivalry as Beijing aims for 60% market share via state-backed firms like HMN Tech under the Digital Silk Road. China's PEACE cable links Asia-Europe via Singapore, while US pressure shifted SEA-ME-WE 6's \$600M contract from HMN to SubCom, citing espionage risks; PRC claims deter foreign cables in its "nine-dash line" zones, enabling data

chokeholds. Recent PRC cable-cutting ships signal hybrid warfare potential, urging ASEAN resilience amid territorial disputes.

Source: [Here](#), 18 Feb 2026

CHAGOS AGREEMENT, DIEGO GARCIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN GEOPOLITICS

The 2025 UK–Mauritius Chagos Agreement transfers sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago—including Diego Garcia—to Mauritius while granting a 99-year lease for the joint UK–US military base, aligning with International Court of Justice rulings on decolonisation. Strategically positioned between the Bab-el-Mandeb and Strait of Malacca, Diego Garcia enables US power projection amid Red Sea tensions. The agreement has sparked debate over potential Chinese influence, though India–Mauritius ties could enable greater India–US maritime cooperation to balance Beijing’s Indian Ocean presence.

Source: [Here](#), 23 February 2026

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS RESHAPING ARCTIC GEOPOLITICS

Arctic temperatures are rising nearly four times faster than the global average, with September sea-ice extent declining by about 12 per cent per decade and multi-year ice shrinking by nearly 90 per cent since 1979. This rapid melt is opening the Northern Sea Route (NSR) and exposing major reserves of oil, gas, and rare earth minerals. Russia, controlling 53 per cent of the Arctic coastline, is investing over \$100 billion in LNG projects and military infrastructure despite sanctions, while China promotes a “Polar Silk Road.” The United States is countering through strategic partnerships and Greenland engagement, shifting the Arctic from “High North, Low Tension” to intensifying geopolitical competition.

Source: [Here](#), 25 February 2026

NORWAY TARGETS MARITIME, ENERGY INVESTMENTS IN INDIA UNDER TEPA

Norway is prioritising investments in India’s maritime and energy sectors following the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Free Trade Association, which entered into force last year. Ambassador May-Elin Stener noted interest from over 160 Norwegian firms, particularly shipowners pursuing shipbuilding contracts and applying offshore oil and gas expertise to renewable sectors such as solar energy. Bilateral trade has doubled over the past decade, complemented by climate cooperation with The Energy and Resources Institute on marine pollution, plastic waste, and nature-based solutions.

Source: [Here](#), 26 February 2026

INDIA TO HELM INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM AFTER 16 YEARS, CORE PRINCIPLES IN FOCUS

India assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium on 20 February 2026 at Visakhapatnam during the 9th Conclave of Chiefs, attended by 33 nations from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Taking over from Thailand—and marking its first leadership since inaugurating IONS (2008–2010)—the Indian Navy will advance the CORE principles of Cooperation, Openness, Respect, and Exchange through strengthened working groups on maritime security, HADR, and information sharing. Initiatives include IMEX exercises and SAGAR deployments, reinforcing India’s maritime leadership alongside MILAN 2026 and the International Fleet Review 2026.

Source: [Here](#), 21 February 2026