

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

IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS FOR URGENT RELEASE OF 44 SEAFARERS HELD BY PIRATES

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has made an urgent appeal for the safe release of 44 seafarers held captive aboard three vessels — MT Honour 25, Eureka, and Sward — hijacked in Somali waters and the Gulf of Aden between April and May. Speaking at the IMO Council's 137th session in London, Dominguez highlighted the crews' deteriorating humanitarian conditions, including critically low food and water supplies. IMO has recorded 24 piracy incidents in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden over the past three months alone, whilst global piracy incidents rose 17% between 2024 and 2025. The resurgence of Somali piracy, occurring simultaneously with the Hormuz crisis, signals a dangerous and compounding deterioration of maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region.

Source: [Here](#), July 06, 2026

RED SEA SECURITY WORSENS AS HORMUZ TRANSITS RISE

Bulk carrier Lady Naeima issued a distress call on 5 July after being approached by armed skiffs within 20 metres off Yemen's Houthi-controlled coast, marking the latest in a series of attacks reinforcing the substantial threat level across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. A separate illegal boarding off Yemen occurred on 1 July, with attackers using boarding ladders to access a vessel's bridge. Meanwhile, Strait of Hormuz transits have gradually recovered, with US-assisted passages totalling 70 in 72 hours, though JMIC maintains a substantial threat level and warns of a mine danger area within the pre-conflict traffic separation scheme. The concurrent deterioration in the Red Sea and cautious Hormuz recovery underscores the persistent, multi-theatre nature of global maritime security challenges.

Source: [Here](#), July 06, 2026

US TO RESTART IRAN BLOCKADE AND BECOME “GUARDIAN OF HORMUZ,” SAYS TRUMP

The United States has resumed its naval blockade on Iranian ports effective 14 July, following a fourth round of strikes on Iran after another containership was struck in the Strait of Hormuz. President Trump declared the US would henceforth serve as "Guardian of the Hormuz Strait," announcing a 20% levy on all cargo transiting under US protection. Vessel transits have fallen approximately 52% week-over-week, with traffic largely at a standstill. Iran declared the strait fully closed again following sustained US strikes on IRGC naval facilities, air-defence systems, and Bandar Abbas Naval Base. During the 26-day blockade pause, Iran reportedly shipped over 80 million barrels of oil worth \$6 billion, whilst oil prices jumped 5% on news of the blockade's resumption.

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

35 INCIDENTS OF ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA REPORTED IN FIRST HALF OF 2026

ReCAAP ISC's Half Year Report for January–June 2026 recorded 35 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, a 64% decrease from 96 incidents in the same period last year, and the lowest since 2019. All incidents constituted opportunistic armed robbery within coastal state jurisdictions, predominantly adopting a hit-and-run approach. The Straits of Malacca and Singapore accounted for 60%

of all incidents, though these too fell 74% year-on-year to 21 cases, primarily targeting bulk carriers in the Singapore Strait's eastbound lane during night hours. Notably, Philippine ports recorded 10 incidents against zero last year. ReCAAP attributed the overall improvement to effective industry preventive measures and firm law enforcement responses from littoral states.

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

MARITIME FORCES

NAVY'S SHOW OF FORCE DETERS PIRACY BID AGAINST SHIP WITH VITAL CARGO FOR INDIA

Indian Navy warship INS *Trikand* thwarted a piracy attack on merchant vessel MV Golden Arsenal, which had one Indian crew member, off the coast of the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday. After the crew took refuge in a secure location and transmitted a distress signal, INS *Trikand* deployed rapidly, prompting the pirates to flee before approaching. MARCOS commandos then boarded the vessel to conduct a sanitisation operation, after which the crew received medical check-ups and the ship resumed its voyage. This marks INS *Trikand*'s second such response within weeks, having earlier deterred a suspected piracy attempt on MV *Fareeda 5* on 17 June. INS *Kolkata* similarly foiled a suspected attempt near MV *Mashallah 1* on 27 May, underscoring the Indian Navy's sustained role as first responder and preferred security partner safeguarding merchant shipping in the Western Indian Ocean.

Source: [Here](#), July 02, 2026

INDIA'S P-8I MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT IN HAWAII FOR RIMPAC EXERCISE

An Indian Navy P-8I maritime patrol aircraft is participating in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC 2026), the world's largest multinational naval exercise, hosted by the US Pacific Fleet in and around the Hawaiian Islands from 24 June to 31 July. The Indian Embassy in the US stated that the deployment reaffirms India's commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific by enhancing interoperability, maritime domain awareness, and cooperation with partner navies. Themed 'Partners: Integrated and Prepared', the 30th edition of RIMPAC involves 30 nations, over 30 surface ships, five submarines, 15 national land forces, more than 206 aircraft, and 30,000 personnel. The exercise covers a wide spectrum of training, including amphibious operations, anti-submarine warfare, air defence, mine countermeasures, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, and counter-piracy operations.

Source: [Here](#), July 04, 2026

INDIA AND JAPAN TO CO-DEVELOP NAVAL RADIO ANTENNA BASED ON UNICORN

India and Japan signed an agreement for the co-development of a naval radio antenna based on Japan's UNICORN system, announced during Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to India on 2 July. PM Modi described it as the first-ever co-development project between the two countries, marking a new chapter in their defence technology partnership. The agreement builds on discussions dating back to 2022, with both nations noting progress on the transfer in 2024. UNICORN, currently fitted on Japan's Mogami-class frigates, integrates multiple antennas into a single mast to enhance stealth, and is expected to feature on India's next-generation warships. The deal follows India's own Indigenous Integrated Mast programme showcased at DefExpo 2022, whose current status remains unclear, and comes amid parallel discussions on a possible India-Japan common destroyer design.

Source: [Here](#), July 06, 2026

INDONESIA SIGNS BRAHMOS MISSILE DEAL WITH INDIA

The BrahMos deal with Indonesia is more than a defence sale — it's a marker of India's arrival as a credible arms exporter in Southeast Asia. With the Philippines and Vietnam already in the fold, Jakarta's signing during Modi's visit signals the missile's growing acceptance as a preferred A2/AD tool along the region's most contested straits. For Indonesia, it fills a real capability gap left by its dormant Yakhont fleet. For India, each new customer strengthens BrahMos's credibility as a proven system, not just a co-developed one. The undisclosed contract value matters less than the geopolitical signal: India is steadily embedding itself into Southeast Asia's maritime security architecture, one missile deal at a time.

Source: [Here](#), July 07, 2026

FOUR INDIGENOUS NAVAL PLATFORMS JOIN INDIAN NAVY WITHIN A MONTH

The induction of four indigenous naval platforms within a single month reflects both a technological achievement and a growing industrial confidence. INS *Mahendragiri*'s commissioning as the sixth *Nilgiri*-class frigate under Project 17A, alongside three other platforms, demonstrates that India's defence shipbuilding ecosystem is now capable of sustained, high-tempo delivery rather than isolated milestones. This is a meaningful shift: as chokepoints like Hormuz grow increasingly volatile, a navy built on indigenous platforms gains greater operational flexibility and reduced dependence on external supply chains. With three more Project 17A frigates yet to join the fleet, the challenge — and opportunity — will be sustaining this momentum, cementing India's trajectory toward genuine self-reliance in naval capability.

Source: [Here](#), July 13, 2026

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

INDIA MOVES CLOSER TO EU RECOGNITION FOR SUSTAINABLE SHIP RECYCLING, STRENGTHENING GLOBAL MARITIME LEADERSHIP

Three Indian ship recycling facilities have completed compliance requirements to seek recognition under the European Union Ship Recycling Regulation, following discussions between Union Minister Sonowal and EU Commissioner Roswall. Over 30 Indian yards have applied for EU recognition, with six currently in the approval process. India's global ship recycling market share rose from 30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025, with nearly 2.99 million GT recycled — representing 60% year-on-year growth. Backed by a \$8 billion government investment, India aims to recycle approximately 16,000 ships over the next decade. EU recognition would significantly enhance India's international credibility, marking its transition from a volume-driven to a standards-driven maritime recycling nation within the global circular economy.

Source: [Here](#), July 01, 2026

MORMUGAO EMERGES AS INDIA'S FIRST GREEN PORT AMID ₹3,300 CRORE INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH

Mormugao Port Authority has strengthened its position as one of India's most progressive ports after emerging as the country's first Green Port, alongside infrastructure projects exceeding ₹3,300 crore, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted during his visit to Goa on 4 July. Completed projects worth over ₹1,300 crore, with another ₹2,000 crore under implementation, include redevelopment of Berth No. 9, the Vasco Bay Project, capital dredging, a modern Seafarers' Club, and India's first Green Ship Incentives scheme. The developments align with Maritime India Vision 2030 and the Sagarmala Programme, positioning Mormugao as a model for sustainable, competitive port-led growth.

Source: [Here](#), July 04, 2026

AP INVITES SOUTH KOREAN INVESTMENT IN ₹30,000 CRORE SHIPBUILDING CLUSTER

Andhra Pradesh has invited South Korean marine equipment manufacturers to partner in the development of the ₹30,000 crore Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding Cluster, a jointly developed by the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board and Visakhapatnam Port Authority. Minister Nara Lokesh, speaking at a KOMEA roundtable in Busan, proposed a strategic KOMEA-APMB partnership encompassing a Korea Marine Equipment Desk, India Ship Technology Centre, and joint skill development programmes. Andhra Pradesh also inaugurated APEX Korea, its first overseas investment facilitation centre in Busan. The outreach reflects Andhra Pradesh's proactive strategy to attract international maritime investment, positioning itself as an emerging hub for shipbuilding, ship repair, and marine engineering within India's broader maritime industrial ambitions.

Source: [Here](#), July 09, 2026

SUEZ CANAL RAISES TRANSIT FEES EVEN AS GLOBAL CARRIERS TRICKLE BACK

The Suez Canal Authority has imposed fresh transit surcharges effective 15 July, with laden crude tankers facing the steepest increase to 37% above standard dues, whilst dry bulk carriers more than doubled to 22% and LNG carriers rose to 19%. The increases coincide with the cautious return of major container lines including Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd to the Suez route, following eighteen months of Cape of Good Hope diversions prompted by Houthi attacks. The timing is delicate, as most lines retain Cape routing as a hedge pending sustained Bab-el-Mandeb security. For India, normalisation of the Suez corridor remains significant, as prolonged diversions have added materially to freight costs for Indian exporters of textiles, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods.

Source: [Here](#), July 14, 2026

INDIA-SRI LANKA CARGO FERRY TO START SOON

A new weekly container cargo ferry service connecting *Karaikal* in India with *Kankesanthurai* and Trincomalee in Sri Lanka is set to commence in late August or early September 2026, operated by Chennai-based Connect Maritime LLP. The service will deploy M/V Beypore Sultan, an 81-TEU feeder vessel, supporting both Full Container Load and Less than Container Load shipments at freight rates of \$650–675 per container. The launch establishes a dedicated logistics corridor across the Palk Strait, strengthening maritime trade connectivity between southern India and northern and eastern Sri Lanka. The service marks a meaningful advancement in India-Sri Lanka maritime economic integration, complementing existing bilateral defence and diplomatic engagement.

Source: [Here](#), July 15, 2026

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

GLOBAL DAILY SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE BREAKS RECORD IN JUNE 2026, HINTS AT GLOBAL MARINE HEATWAVES

Global average sea surface temperatures broke new June records in 2026, reaching 20.86°C on 21 June according to Copernicus Climate Change Service data, driven primarily by strengthening El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific. Ocean temperatures outside polar regions are now 0.35–0.73°C above long-term averages, with anomalies reaching record-high levels for the time of year. Scientists warn the conditions may herald widespread marine heatwaves, accelerated sea level rise, ice melt, stressed marine

ecosystems, and more extreme storms and flooding globally. With a likely strong El Niño developing, Copernicus scientists anticipate further temperature records in the coming months, underscoring the accelerating and increasingly consequential warming of the world's oceans.

Source: [Here](#), July 01, 2026

LETHAL FISHING NETS AND VESSEL TRAFFIC DEVASTATE KARNATAKA'S DOLPHINS AND OTHER MARINE LIFE

Researchers from Karnatak University, Dharwad, have found that fishing interactions and vessel traffic are the primary drivers of marine mammal deaths along Karnataka's coast, having recorded 65 strandings of whales, dolphins, and porpoises across 39 beaches between July 2023 and September 2025. Through weekly transect surveys along the 343-km coastline and a rapid-response network with local communities, the team identified mortality hotspots concentrated in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada, particularly during the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons. The Indian Ocean humpback dolphin accounted for over 60% of strandings, with deaths linked to vessel strikes, net entanglement, and ingested plastic debris. Nearly half the cases remained unclassified due to advanced decomposition, though researchers noted the true toll is likely higher, underscoring the need for bycatch-reducing gear and vessel traffic regulation in critical habitats.

Source: [Here](#), July 04, 2026

OCEAN WARMING HAS BEEN SHRINKING MARINE ANIMALS FOR 450 MILLION YEARS, MASSIVE STUDY REVEALS

A landmark study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, drawing on nearly 9,000 recorded changes and 1.6 million measurements spanning 450 million years, has confirmed that ocean warming causes marine animals to genuinely shrink — a phenomenon known as the Lilliput effect. Warming-linked shrinkage was found to be twice as severe as that caused by other environmental stresses, driven by warmer water holding less dissolved oxygen whilst simultaneously increasing metabolic demand. Reef fish studies already document average length reductions of approximately 5% per 2°F temperature rise. Researchers warn that continued ocean warming may cascade through entire marine food webs, ultimately threatening the fisheries and coastal food systems upon which billions of people depend.

Source: [Here](#), July 15, 2026

MICROPLASTICS REACH EVEN 2,000 METERS BELOW THE OCEAN SURFACE, STUDY FINDS

Researchers from Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology and Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology have found microplastics in 92% of deep-sea snails and mussels sampled from hydrothermal vents over 2,000 metres below the surface, in the world's first comparative study of its kind. Specimens were collected from the North Fiji Basin in the southwestern Pacific and the Central Indian Ridge in the Indian Ocean, with polystyrene being the most commonly detected polymer. Notably, Indian Ocean specimens showed up to 14.7 times higher microplastic concentrations than Pacific counterparts, likely linked to regional human activity and ocean circulation patterns. The findings mark the first scientific evidence that surface-generated plastic pollution reaches some of Earth's most remote marine ecosystems, with implications for deep-sea environmental monitoring and conservation policy.

Source: [Here](#), July 15, 2026

GEOPOLITICS

INDIANS AMONG 44 SEAFARERS STILL HELD HOSTAGE BY SOMALI PIRATES, IMO CHIEF RAISES ALARM OVER HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez appealed on Monday for the urgent release of 44 seafarers, including Indians, held captive by Somali pirates. The seafarers remain aboard three hijacked vessels — MT Honour 25, Eureka, and Sward. All three were seized in separate incidents between April and May off Somalia's coast and in the Gulf of Aden. Dominguez highlighted the crews' deteriorating conditions, with food and water running critically low. He raised the alarm during the IMO Council's 137th session in London. IMO has recorded 24 piracy incidents in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden over the past three months alone. Global piracy incidents rose 17% between 2024 and 2025.

Source: [Here](#), July 06, 2026

INDIA AND INDONESIA SIGN BRAHMOS, ASTRA DEALS; TO JOINTLY

India and Indonesia signed agreements spanning defence, maritime security, and critical minerals during PM Modi's visit to Jakarta, with Indonesia deciding to procure India's indigenous BrahMos and Astra missiles. The two nations also agreed to jointly develop Indonesia's Sabang Port near the Strait of Malacca, located roughly 100 miles from India's Great Nicobar port project, to boost Indo-Pacific maritime connectivity. India further plans to invest in Indonesian manufacturing facilities for steel, nickel, and rare-earth permanent magnets to diversify supply chains. PM Modi described the deals as marking a "golden chapter" in the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, alongside announcements on an IIM Bangalore campus in Indonesia and UPI-payment system integration to facilitate cross-border transactions.

Source: [Here](#), July 07, 2026

AUSTRALIA AND INDIA SIGN URANIUM EXPORT DEAL DURING PM MODI'S VISIT

Australia and India signed an agreement to export Australian uranium for India's nuclear energy industry, announced by PM Modi after talks with his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, in Melbourne on 9 July. The arrangement, governed by IAEA safeguards, allows long-term uranium exports for exclusively peaceful purposes, supporting India's target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy capacity by 2047 and Australia's push to diversify trade beyond China. The deal builds on a 2014 nuclear cooperation agreement, under which Australia had exported limited supplies over weapons-related concerns. Modi and Albanese also agreed to strengthen defence cooperation, bolster critical minerals supply chains, and build a temporary space tracking terminal on Australia's Cocos Keeling Islands to support Indian space flight projects.

Source: [Here](#), July 09, 2026

NEW ZEALAND, INDIA UPGRADE TIES AS PM MODI VISITS AUCKLAND

PM Modi and New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon elevated bilateral relations to a "strategic partnership" during talks in Auckland on 11 July. Both sides cited shared democratic values and mutual interests in the Indo-Pacific. The visit was the first by an Indian PM to New Zealand in 40 years, following Modi's earlier stops in Indonesia and Australia. The two countries signed a defence cooperation arrangement and pledged greater collaboration on maritime safety. However, the upgrade comes amid rising anti-Indian sentiment in New Zealand and tensions within its ruling coalition over a bilateral free-trade agreement. Indian New Zealanders have reported increased racial abuse, as politicians push for

tighter migrant controls. About 292,000 of New Zealand's 5.3 million people identified as Indian in the 2023 census.

Source: [Here](#), July 11, 2026

IRAN ATTACKS FIVE GULF NATIONS, SHUTS HORMUZ AFTER US BOMBING: ALL TO KNOW

Iran launched attacks on Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, and Oman on Sunday, following the US's third round of strikes on Iran in a week. Tehran struck US bases and facilities across the Gulf. CENTCOM said it hit around 140 military targets in Iran, including missile and drone sites and naval capabilities. The escalation followed Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz after firing on commercial vessels, one of which left a crew member missing. The IRGC said the strait would remain shut until "the end of US interference" in the region. Qatar and Oman condemned the attacks as violations of sovereignty and international law. Air raid sirens sounded across several Gulf states, with residents urged to stay indoors.

Source: [Here](#), July 11, 2026