

# **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

### **MINE CLEARANCE TOP PRIORITY FOR HORMUZ SAFETY SAY TANKER OWNERS**

Intertanko has issued an urgent call for clarity on safe navigation procedures in the Strait of Hormuz following the US-Iran ceasefire agreement, warning that without clear guidance, shipowners will remain deeply cautious about resuming transits. The association has prioritised clearing the internationally recognised Traffic Separation Scheme of all mine threats as the essential first step, alongside establishing a command-and-control system to manage an estimated 550 vessels seeking to depart and approximately 60 daily transits through currently inadequate interim routes. Intertanko has called for a single point of contact, managed transit slots, widened lanes, and lateral separation between traffic flows. Seafarer safety, it emphasised, must remain paramount throughout the resumption process.

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

### **TANKER HIT IN HORMUZ, THREAT LEVEL RAISED**

The Panama-flagged VLCC Kiku, laden with approximately 2 million barrels of oil, was struck by an unidentified projectile whilst transiting the Strait of Hormuz, marking the second attack since the US-Iran 60-day ceasefire accord. The attack follows Iran's drone strike on the Singapore-flagged container ship Ever Lovely on 25 June, which prompted the IMO to suspend its evacuation operation for vessels and 11,000 stranded crew. US Central Command conducted retaliatory strikes on Iran on 26 June. JMIC has raised the Hormuz threat level from moderate to substantial, whilst widening the southern corridor to accommodate simultaneous traffic amid ongoing mine clearance operations, underscoring the profound fragility of the ceasefire arrangement.

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

### **RISING TENSIONS IN YEMEN THREATEN RED SEA TRANSITS**

Rising tensions between Yemen's Houthis and the Internationally Recognised Government (IRG) of Yemen signal a potential resumption of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden disruptions, though attacks on commercial shipping have thus far been withheld. The Houthi leadership has restrained from maritime aggression primarily to preserve Saudi-mediated negotiations promising critical financial subsidies, but growing domestic economic protests and stalled salary talks worth \$13 billion have prompted public threats of imminent military action. IRG Vice President General Tariq Saleh has declared a military clash with the Houthis inevitable. With the Strait of Hormuz only partially reopening, any Houthi resumption of Red Sea attacks would create severe compounding disruption to global maritime trade at an acutely fragile moment.

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

### **TANKER STRUCK IN HORMUZ AS IRAN, US TRADE ATTACKS IN WORST ESCALATION SINCE PEACE DEAL**

A tanker sustained bridge damage in the Strait of Hormuz on 27 June as the US and Iran exchanged strikes in the worst escalation since their interim peace agreement, with each side accusing the other of ceasefire violations. Iran fired on vessels using the US-endorsed southern corridor whilst asserting control over shipping through Iranian-approved northern routes, and struck US-linked targets including a

Bahrain-based drone attack. Washington maintained it had honoured the agreement, with Vice President Vance warning that "violence will be met with violence." Hundreds of oil-laden vessels blockaded since February have begun departing, driving oil prices towards pre-war levels, but sustained normalisation of Hormuz traffic remains contingent on resolving the competing US-Iranian corridor dispute.

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

## **SOUTHERN GIANTS FORCES SEIZE HOUTHY-BOUND DRONE EQUIPMENT IN BAB AL-MANDAB**

Yemen's Southern Giants Forces seized a boat in the Bab al-Mandab area carrying drone manufacturing and explosive boat components destined for Houthi-controlled Hodeidah, arresting three Houthi sailors. The shipment included high-precision GNSS/RTK navigation modules, industrial device servers, CubePilot flight control components, CNC manufacturing equipment, and electronic circuit boards — components directly associated with unmanned systems guidance and production. The interdiction at one of the world's most strategically critical maritime corridors underscores the continued covert resupply of Houthi maritime drone capabilities, and highlights the vital role of Southern forces in disrupting weapons smuggling networks that directly threaten commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Source: [Here](#), June 30, 2026

## **MARITIME FORCES**

### **INDIA CONDUCTS SPATE OF TESTS FOR ANTI-SHIP, LAND ATTACK, BMD AND HYPERSONIC GROUND ATTACK MISSILES**

India's DRDO conducted a series of successful missile tests in June 2026, demonstrating significant advances across multiple strike and defence domains. The AD-1 and AD-2 ballistic missile defence interceptors validated capability against long-range ballistic missiles including ICBMs, with naval integration anticipated given emerging threats. The maiden flight test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range, with a 300 km range and X-band AESA seeker, marks a major advancement in India's anti-ship strike capability, intended for MiG-29K, Tejas Mk1A, and shipborne platforms. The near-hypersonic Rudram-2 and subsonic Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile were also successfully tested. Together, these tests substantially enhance India's multi-domain maritime and strategic strike envelope.

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

### **ICG BOLSTERS OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS WITH INDUCTION OF INDIGENOUS AIR CUSHION VEHICLE**

The Indian Coast Guard inducted its first indigenously built Air Cushion Vehicle at Goa on 18 June 2026, constructed by Chowgule & Company Private Limited under a contract for six such platforms. Designed to enhance operational effectiveness across a broad spectrum of maritime duties, the hovercraft's unique amphibious capability enables operations across shallow waters, beaches, mudflats, and marshlands beyond the reach of conventional vessels. The induction reinforces the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision and reflects the growing maturity of India's maritime industrial base. As part of the ICG's ongoing modernisation, the platform significantly augments India's coastal surveillance, search and rescue, and rapid response capabilities along its extensive coastline.

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

## **INS *TARKASH* REACHES MAURITIUS AS PART OF OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT**

INS *Tarkash*, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius, as part of its South West Indian Ocean deployment, conducting professional training capsules for Mauritius National Coast Guard personnel covering harbour and sea watchkeeping, firefighting, damage control, and seamanship. The ship also participated in International Day of Yoga celebrations and was opened to local visitors, strengthening people-to-people ties. The visit reflects India's sustained commitment to maritime capacity building amongst friendly regional forces, reaffirming its role as a preferred security partner and net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region in line with its *MAHASAGAR* vision.

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

## **INDIAN NAVY'S EASTERN FLEET SHIPS UDAYGIRI AND KAVARATTI DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM**

Indian Naval Ships *Udaygiri* and *Kavaratti*, led by RAdm Alok Ananda (FOCEF), left Ho Chi Minh City on June 24, 2026 after a port call. Highlights included meetings with Vietnamese officials and naval leadership, a wreath-laying at Ho Chi Minh's statue, bilateral exercises, and a joint yoga session marking International Day of Yoga. The Indian Ambassador to Vietnam was hosted aboard INS *Udaygiri* with Vietnamese Navy representatives and diplomats. The visit reinforced the India-Vietnam Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, supporting India's Act East Policy and *MAHASAGAR* vision—reflecting continued commitment to regional maritime cooperation, security, and stronger bilateral ties between the two navies.

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

## **INDIA-SEYCHELLES DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP: A TRUSTED MARITIME ALLIANCE ANCHORING SECURITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

Prime Minister Modi's state visit to Seychelles from 27–29 June 2026 provides an opportunity to reaffirm one of the Indian Ocean's most enduring strategic maritime partnerships. Over two decades, India has gifted patrol vessels, Dornier surveillance aircraft, and coastal radar systems, conducted regular naval deployments, and deepened cooperation through the biennial LAMITYE exercise — now expanded to a tri-service format. Seychelles' PS Zoroaster participated in Exercise MILAN and India's International Fleet Review in February 2026, reflecting the partnership's growing reciprocity. Against a backdrop of rising piracy, illegal fishing, and transnational crime in the western Indian Ocean, the India-Seychelles partnership exemplifies India's *MAHASAGAR* vision of trust-based, capacity-driven maritime cooperation with Indian Ocean Island states.

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

## **SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY**

### **CISF STRENGTHENS MARITIME SECURITY FOR BLUE ECONOMY**

The Central Industrial Security Force has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation under the ISPS Code, tasked with conducting Port Facility Security Assessments and preparing security plans for 264 ports across India. In the first phase, 27 major and non-major EXIM ports will be assessed in 2026–27. CISF has partnered with Rashtriya Raksha University, Indian Register of Shipping, and Indian Maritime University for specialised training, with 135 RSO-trained consultants to be developed. Security templates

for fishing harbours and coastal points are also underway. The designation, aligned with India's Blue Economy 2.0 vision, significantly strengthens India's port security framework and institutional capacity under the newly established Bureau of Port Security.

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

## **APSEZ TO SPEND \$100 MILLION ON AI PLATFORM TO LIFT PORT EFFICIENCY**

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone will invest up to \$100 million in an AI-driven terminal operating and optimisation platform through an expanded partnership with Kaleris, to be deployed across 15 container terminals spanning nine Indian and overseas ports. The platform is projected to deliver up to 20% improvement in crane performance, 14% increase in truck productivity, and unlock 91 million tonnes of additional annual cargo handling capacity by 2030. The investment forms part of APSEZ's broader \$850 million technology and decarbonisation roadmap under its 2031 plan. The deployment signals a significant advancement in India's port digitalisation journey, positioning APSEZ at the forefront of AI-enabled port operations globally.

Source: [Here](#), June 17, 2026

## **KERALA UNVEILS ₹400 CRORE MISSION SAMUDRA FOR PORT-LED ECONOMY**

Kerala has launched Mission Samudra, a ₹400 crore initiative to transform the state into a global maritime and economic hub within five years, integrating its 600 km coastline, Kochi and Vizhinjam international seaports, 17 non-major ports, and a container transshipment terminal. Key objectives include establishing manufacturing zones and dry ports near Vizhinjam and Kochi, developing green bunkering services, and creating a shipbuilding and maintenance hub. A Kerala Maritime Policy will promote maritime tourism, logistics, and port-based industries through public-private partnerships. With ports contributing nearly 10% to Kerala's GSDP, Mission Samudra represents a decisive strategic pivot towards port-led economic development, positioning Vizhinjam as a transformative node in India's emerging maritime commercial architecture.

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

## **RUSSIA PLANS TO INVEST RUPEE SURPLUS IN INDIA'S PORTS, BIOTECH AND SEZs**

Russia is exploring ways to utilise its accumulated Indian rupee surplus — accrued through bilateral trade — in India's high-growth sectors, with ports and maritime infrastructure identified as a key priority. Russian stakeholders are eyeing investment opportunities under the Sagarmala programme's 800-plus port and logistics corridor projects, alongside biotech and special economic zones. For Russia, the initiative converts idle rupee balances into productive long-term assets; for India, it potentially brings capital and technology partnerships into critical infrastructure sectors. Russian investment interest in Sagarmala signals the growing strategic and commercial depth of India-Russia economic ties, extending well beyond energy into maritime infrastructure development.

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

## **MV CL PEKING BERTHS AT DEENDAYAL PORT WITH NEARLY 82,000 MT OF US COAL FOR ULTRATECH CEMENT**

MV CL Peking has berthed at Deendayal Port, Gujarat, carrying approximately 82,000 metric tonnes of coal imported from the United States for UltraTech Cement. The operation underscores Deendayal Port's capacity to efficiently handle large-volume bulk cargo shipments, reinforcing its role as a significant dry bulk gateway supporting India's manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. The consignment reflects the continued importance of US coal imports in meeting India's industrial raw material requirements, whilst highlighting the port's operational capability to sustain continuity in downstream cement production through reliable bulk cargo handling.

Source: [Here](#), June 30, 2026

## **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

### **'WE REALLY ARE GOING BLIND': SCIENTISTS WARN WORLD LOSING SIGHT OF THE OCEAN**

Global ocean monitoring capacity is declining at a critical moment, with the US government dismantling much of its Ocean Observatories Initiative — a \$368 million network of over 900 sensors — whilst funding constraints are simultaneously shrinking monitoring programmes across Europe and the UK. The Starfish Barometer notes that major moored buoy networks and ship-based observations have declined since the pandemic, compounding the US cuts. Researchers warn that weakening ocean observation infrastructure creates dangerous blind spots in understanding climate change, carbon cycles, weather forecasting, and fisheries management. Scientists caution that the rest of the world must collectively compensate for diminishing US capacity, yet real-terms funding cuts are occurring globally, threatening the scientific foundations underpinning ocean protection and climate policy.

Source: [Here](#), June 17, 2026

### **RED SEAWEED ACCUMULATION COVERS THOOTHUKUDI HARBOUR BEACH COASTLINE**

Significant quantities of red seaweed have washed ashore along Thoothukudi Harbour Beach in Tamil Nadu, attracting tourists and local residents. Marine experts attribute the phenomenon to seasonal changes in ocean currents and wind patterns, with the seaweed originating from the Gulf of Mannar marine ecosystem. Researchers note such accumulations are periodic natural occurrences reflecting the dynamic nature of coastal marine ecosystems. Separately, large flocks of migratory flamingos have been observed at nearby salt pans, underscoring the ecological significance of Thoothukudi's coastal habitats as critical feeding and resting grounds for migratory species traversing southern Tamil Nadu's coastline.

Source: [Here](#), June 17, 2026

### **OCEAN WARMING ABOVE 1.5°C TRIGGERED YEAR-ROUND MARINE DISRUPTION ACROSS GLOBE, STUDY SHOWS**

A KAUST-led global study published in One Earth has assessed marine ecosystem responses during the first year global temperatures exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, analysing 201 ecological impact events spanning coral bleaching, harmful algal blooms, species mortality, and fisheries disruption. Critically, 98% of documented impacts were associated with unusually warm sea temperatures, and disruptions were found to occur year-round rather than being confined to summer heat extremes,

exposing significant gaps in current monitoring and preparedness frameworks. Researchers stress the urgent need for year-round marine monitoring systems and conservation planning. The findings carry particular relevance for regions such as the Red Sea, where marine ecosystem health is central to growing blue economy ambitions.

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

## **OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE IN KENYA ENDS WITH \$6.4 BILLION IN PLEDGES, REVIEW OF PAST PROMISES**

The 11th Our Ocean Conference, held for the first time in Africa at Mombasa, Kenya, mobilised over 300 commitments totalling \$6.4 billion across marine protected areas, fisheries monitoring, IUU fishing enforcement, and blue economy development. Key pledges included Senegal doubling its MPA network, Indonesia establishing 7,000 sq km of new MPAs, and Kenya-Tanzania committing to a transboundary conservation area. Fifteen countries endorsed the Mombasa Declaration on combating IUU fishing. However, notable concerns emerged — pledged funds have declined since the 2023 Panama conference, China was conspicuously absent, and a Smithsonian report found half of existing MPAs lack effective protection, underscoring the gap between conservation ambition and implementation capacity.

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

## **ARCTIC MARINE HEAT WAVES SURGE SINCE 1980S, WITH RECORD EVENT LASTING 480 DAYS**

A study by the Alfred Wegener Institute published in Communications Earth & Environment has found that Arctic marine heatwaves have significantly increased in duration, intensity, and frequency since the 1980s, with surface temperatures reaching up to 4°C above seasonal averages. The Arctic's marginal seas are emerging as hotspots, experiencing heatwaves at twice the global average frequency. Two principal drivers are identified: general ocean warming and accelerating sea ice decline, which together amplify heat absorption through ice-albedo feedback and freshwater layering effects. As the fastest-warming region on Earth, the Arctic faces projected sharp future increases in marine heatwave frequency, with cascading implications for polar ecosystems and the broader global climate system.

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

## **GEOPOLITICS**

### **TRUMP SAYS US, INDIA 'VERY CLOSE' TO TRADE DEAL, CALLS PM MODI A 'TOUGH NEGOTIATOR'**

Prime Minister Modi and President Trump held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Évian-les-Bains, covering trade negotiations, maritime security, energy cooperation, and West Asia developments. Trump described the two nations as "very close" to finalising a trade deal, with US Trade Representative Greer expected to visit India shortly to advance negotiations. Modi emphasised the importance of peace, stability, and uninterrupted maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz, whilst Trump acknowledged India's growing geopolitical role in West Asia. The meeting, coming after months of diplomatic strain over tariffs, signals a deliberate bilateral reset anchored in shared strategic interests across trade, defence, and Indo-Pacific maritime security.

Source: [Here](#), June 17, 2026

## **INDIA, MAURITIUS TO PARTNER IN CONTAINER TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT**

India and Mauritius are deepening their maritime partnership through cooperation in container terminal development at Port Louis, aimed at expanding handling capacity, improving efficiency, and reinforcing Mauritius's role as an Indian Ocean transshipment hub. The initiative aligns with Mauritius's broader port modernisation agenda covering cruise infrastructure and container handling, whilst adding a strategic infrastructure dimension to India's SAGAR vision and Indian Ocean outreach. For India, the collaboration strengthens a long-standing strategic relationship at a moment when port infrastructure and maritime connectivity are increasingly central to Indo-Pacific geopolitics, positioning the partnership as simultaneously commercially significant and strategically consequential for regional trade architecture.

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

## **MODI IN SEYCHELLES: WHY IS THIS TINY ISLAND COUNTRY IN AFRICA A STRATEGIC GIANT FOR INDIA?**

Prime Minister Modi's three-day state visit to Seychelles from 27–29 June, coinciding with the island nation's Golden Jubilee and 50 years of bilateral diplomatic relations, underscores the strategic centrality of Seychelles to India's Indian Ocean architecture. With a 1.3 million sq km EEZ straddling critical sea lanes connecting East Africa, West Asia, and the Indo-Pacific, Seychelles occupies outsized strategic importance. India has deepened maritime security cooperation through coastal surveillance radars, patrol vessels, Dornier aircraft, and hydrographic surveys. A \$175 million Special Economic Package covering digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, and climate resilience signals India's evolution from the SAGAR to the MAHASAGAR framework — positioning Seychelles as a model for India's holistic, development-integrated Indian Ocean partnerships.

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

## **TANKER MARKET NOW A “HOSTAGE” OF GEOPOLITICS**

Shipbroker Gibson's mid-year review characterises the tanker market as a hostage of geopolitics, with the Hormuz closure, Venezuela's reopening, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict driving unprecedented freight rate volatility throughout 2026. VLCC rates hit levels unseen since 2020, whilst consolidation among ten operators now controlling 57% of the VLCC fleet has amplified market volatility. UAE crude exports have surged to record levels of 3.6 million barrels per day following Hormuz's partial reopening, whilst Russian crude exports hit record highs amid refinery disruptions. Despite record VLCC orderbook levels and new deliveries at a 16-year high, scrapping remains exceptionally low, with the second half of 2026 offering equally uncertain market conditions.

Source: [Here](#), June 29, 2026

## **JAPAN'S TAKAICHI SEEKS DEEPER INDIA TIES ON TRADE, SECURITY**

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will visit India for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, covering trade, technology, infrastructure, defence, and Indo-Pacific security cooperation. The visit builds on Modi's Tokyo visit last year, when Japan pledged over \$61 billion in investment in India over the next decade. Bilateral trade reached \$27.5 billion in FY 2025–26, with approximately 1,400 Japanese companies operating in India. Both nations, as Quad members, are expected to advance discussions on a free and open Indo-Pacific. Japan's deepening economic and strategic engagement with India, spanning high-speed rail, banking investments, and defence collaboration, reflects the growing convergence of interests between Asia's two leading democratic maritime powers.

Source: [Here](#), June 30, 2026