

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

TRUMP SAYS US WILL HOLD OFF ON FRESH IRAN ATTACK IN HOPE OF QUICK DEAL

President Trump announced he would defer further military strikes on Iran to allow negotiations toward a deal covering the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the elimination of Iran's nuclear threat, following appeals from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi confirmed negotiations with Oman over Hormuz routing were in their final stages, though Tehran insisted the strait's status and routing discussions were separate matters. Brent crude surged 24% as the April ceasefire unravelled, whilst Houthi threats to the Bab al-Mandeb added further pressure on regional energy corridors. Two maritime incidents off Oman, including a tanker struck by an unknown projectile, underscored the continued volatility despite diplomatic signals of de-escalation.

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

SURGE IN BLACK SEA ATTACKS ADDS TO STRAIN ON GLOBAL COMMODITY FLOWS

Escalating Russian and Ukrainian attacks on commercial vessels, ports, and export terminals in the Black Sea are disrupting global grain and oil supplies, creating a third major maritime chokepoint alongside the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea. Ukraine recorded 35 vessel attacks in port and 22 at sea in July alone, compared to 14 for all of 2025, whilst Russia has intensified strikes on Odesa port infrastructure through which over 90% of Ukraine's agricultural exports transit. Average daily Black Sea tanker costs have surged to over \$300,000 and war insurance premiums have doubled to 2% of vessel value. BIMCO warns that continued disruption could reduce global dirty tanker volumes by 3% in an already strained market.

Source: [Here](#), August 05, 2026

INDIA STRESSES SECURITY OF SEAFARERS AS "HIGH PRIORITY" AFTER INDIAN VESSEL SINKS OFF YEMEN; CALLS FOR SAFE, UNIMPEDED PASSAGE

India's Ministry of External Affairs has reaffirmed that seafarer safety is of "high importance" following the sinking of Indian-flagged vessel MSV Faize Noore Oliya in the Red Sea off Yemen. All 14 crew members, including 13 Indian nationals, were successfully rescued by the Yemeni Coast Guard and brought to the Port of Mokha. MEA Spokesperson Jaiswal confirmed that Indian missions across the Gulf are operating 24/7 helplines and coordinating with maritime authorities, whilst calling upon all parties to refrain from targeting commercial vessels and civilian infrastructure. The incident reinforces India's sustained diplomatic pressure for safe, unimpeded navigation through international waterways amid continuing maritime security deterioration in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait.

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

SAUDI RED SEA OIL EXPORTS GO DARK AS HOUTHİ ATTACK THREAT GROWS

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Source: [Here](#), August 12, 2026

DEADLY ATTACK ON RED SEA SHIP ADDS TO GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN UNCERTAINTY

A Houthis strike on the Tanzania-flagged deck cargo ship *Tihamah* off Yemen's southern coast has killed several seafarers, prompting IMO Secretary-General Dominguez to condemn the attack and warn of escalating threats to global supply chains. The incident compounds an already severe maritime crisis, with Hormuz transit numbers falling to approximately seven vessels per day — nearly twenty times below pre-war averages — and around 500 vessels and 6,000 crew members still stranded, despite 2,900 evacuations to date. IMO records 65 confirmed incidents and 17 seafarers killed since March. The Houthis have also struck two Saudi oil tankers, threatening to blockade the Bab al-Mandab Strait, further imperilling the 12–15% of global trade that transits the Red Sea annually.

Source: [Here](#), August 12, 2026

MARITIME FORCES

AS GULF TENSIONS REACH BAB-EL-MANDEP, INDIAN NAVY ESCORTS CARGO SHIPS THROUGH TROUBLED WATERS

As Persian Gulf tensions spill into the Bab al-Mandeb, the Indian Navy has deployed INS *Trishul*, a Talwar-class guided missile frigate, and INS *Aditya*, a replenishment vessel, to escort commercial ships including Indian-flagged MT *Compass* and Liberian-flagged MT *Thalatta*. Operating under Operation Sankalp, launched in June 2019 and continuously maintained since, India has sustained anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008, extending protection to vessels of multiple nationalities. The IFC-IOR in Gurugram provides real-time maritime domain awareness across the region from the Strait of Malacca to the Bab al-Mandeb, underpinning India's inter-agency maritime security architecture and its role as the Indian Ocean Region's preferred security partner.

Source: [Here](#), August 10, 2026

INDIA ACCELERATES NAVAL EXPANSION WITH 200 INDIGENOUS WARSHIPS AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

India's Navy is undergoing one of the largest fleet expansions in its history, targeting nearly 200 warships and submarines by 2035, driven by China's 370-plus vessel fleet and Pakistan's acquisition of eight Chinese-built Hangor-class submarines. Commissioning a new warship or submarine every six weeks, the Navy plans 15 inductions in 2026 alone. Indigenous shipbuilding under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative has achieved over 90% indigenisation in hull systems, with AI, unmanned systems, and network-centric warfare being integrated into the force structure. Forward bases in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep complement blue-water and coastal capabilities. India's expansion prioritises sufficient networked combat power to secure trade routes and assert Indo-Pacific maritime leadership rather than numerical parity with China.

Source: [Here](#), August 10, 2026

INDIAN NAVY-US NAVY EOD EXERCISE 2026 COMMENCES AT SOUTHERN NAVAL COMMAND

The 8th edition of the Indian Navy-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise 2026 commenced at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, running until 14 August. The five-day bilateral exercise involves Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, cross-training, equipment demonstrations, and scenario-based practical drills between specialist diving and EOD teams of both navies. The engagement aims to enhance interoperability, exchange contemporary EOD methodologies and emerging technologies, and strengthen collaborative operational response to complex EOD challenges. Conducted since 2005, the exercise reflects the deepening India-US naval partnership at a strategically significant moment, given the heightened threat of naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters.

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

INS SUDARSHINI REACHES PORTUGAL AFTER 19-DAY ATLANTIC CROSSING IN LOKAYAN 26

INS *Sudarshini* arrived at Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal on 13 August 2026, completing a 19-day trans-Atlantic passage from Boston, her second Atlantic crossing during the *Lokayan 26* deployment, having traversed over 15,000 nautical miles. Prior to the crossing, the sail training ship represented India at SAIL 250 celebrations marking the United States' 250th Independence Day, with port calls at Norfolk, Baltimore, New York, and Boston. Professional interactions and cultural exchanges with the Portuguese Navy are planned during the Azores port call. The *Lokayan 26* deployment exemplifies India's strategic use of sail training diplomacy to project soft power, build crew endurance, and deepen bilateral naval relationships across multiple continents and oceans.

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

INDIA HANDS OVER FIVE RADIAL LASER BOATS TO SEYCHELLES STRENGTHENING MARITIME PARTNERSHIP

India has handed over five laser radial boats to the Seychelles Defence Force, fulfilling Prime Minister Modi's announcement during his June 2026 state visit. The boats are intended to build seamanship skills within the SDF, deepening the bilateral maritime partnership. Concurrently, Seychelles Police personnel are travelling to Kochi to attend the Visit Board Search and Seizure course at the Coast Guard Training Centre, further advancing maritime security capacity building. The deliveries reflect the tangible, prompt translation of high-level diplomatic commitments into operational outcomes, reinforcing India's role as a reliable and proactive security partner for Indian Ocean Island states under its MAHASAGAR framework.

Source: [Here](#), August 12, 2026

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

INDIA'S SCI SEEKS SIX NEWBUILD LNG CONTAINERSHIPS IN ITS BIGGEST TENDER

The Shipping Corporation of India has issued its largest-ever containership tender, seeking bids for up to six 8,000 TEU LNG dual-fuel vessels valued at approximately \$720 million, with responses due by 31 August. The 330-metre vessels, designed with 20,000 nautical mile range and 1,000 reefer slots, are intended to serve US container ports. The tender extends special consideration to Indian shipyards, including a Right of First Refusal against the lowest foreign bidder. The procurement forms part of India's

broader plan to commission 62 new vessels worth \$5.3 billion in 2026 alone. Bidders include Cochin Shipyard, Swan Defence, L&T Shipbuilding, and major South Korean builders exploring Indian partnerships.

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

INDIA CALLS FOR TECHNOLOGY-LED PORT SECURITY FRAMEWORK

At the second National Port Security Conference 2026 in New Delhi (6 August), India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways called for a technology-led maritime security framework emphasising cyber resilience, digital infrastructure and inter-agency coordination. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said ports must be assessed on resilience to threats, not just cargo efficiency, citing cyberattacks, drone incursions and supply chain vulnerabilities as key risks. Officials highlighted the newly established Bureau of Port Security and digital initiatives including e-Samudra and the Maritime Single Window. Around 140 participants attended, with Secretary Vijay Kumar advocating a "Security by Design" approach. This institutionalisation of security oversight signals a maturing policy framework, positioning India to strengthen its credibility within global maritime supply chains as digitalisation expands.

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

FREIGHT COSTS TO US, EUROPE SURGE 3-4 TIMES; INDIAN EXPORTERS NOW PAYING OVER \$9,000 PER CONTAINER

Indian exporters are facing severe freight cost escalation, with shipping charges to the US and Europe rising three to four times over recent months to over \$9,000 per container. The primary driver is disrupted vessel schedules rather than actual vessel or container shortages, caused by the Red Sea crisis, Strait of Hormuz disruptions, port congestion at key hubs including Jebel Ali, Colombo, and Singapore, and continued use of the longer Cape of Good Hope route. Two of five weekly shipping services to the US have been suspended. The crisis coincides with the critical peak festive export season, forcing Indian exporters to absorb exorbitant costs to avoid missing time-sensitive demand in Western markets.

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

HOW MUMBAI PORT IS REWRITING RULES OF BLUE ECONOMY

Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA) handled a record 75.15 million tonnes of cargo in FY 2025–26, up 9.5%, diversifying beyond bulk tonnage. Leveraging flexibilities under the Major Port Authorities Act 2021, it has expanded transshipment via anchorage lightering, digitised bulk handling through SCADA systems, and manages over 18,000 annual ship movements via a shared Vessel Traffic Management System with Jawaharlal Nehru Port. It has also commissioned the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal, capturing 52% of India's ocean cruise traffic, alongside a planned 696-yacht marina, waterfront redevelopment, the NSHIPML shipbuilding park in Raigad, and decarbonisation measures including coastal cargo incentives and solar integration. This multi-use model, blending industrial capacity, tourism and green logistics within a dense urban footprint, positions Mumbai as a replicable template for reconciling port competitiveness with city liveability under India's wider Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

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

INDIA TO SHOWCASE GROWING MARITIME CAPABILITIES AT SMM HAMBURG 2026

India will participate in SMM Hamburg 2026, one of the world's leading maritime exhibitions, from 1–4 September in Hamburg, Germany. The participation will highlight India's expanding capabilities across

shipbuilding and ship repair, marine engineering, digital technologies, green shipping, and renewable marine fuels. Aligned with India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and broader Atmanirbhar Bharat goals, the showcase aims to attract investment, technology collaboration, and joint ventures with international maritime stakeholders. India's presence at SMM Hamburg signals its deliberate effort to project its growing maritime industrial credentials on the global stage at a moment of significant domestic shipbuilding expansion and heightened international interest in India's maritime sector.

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

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

AI REVEALS A MASSIVE ALGAE BOOM ACROSS THE WORLD'S OCEANS

An AI analysis of 1.2 million satellite images led by the University of South Florida and NOAA has revealed a dramatic global rise in floating algae blooms, marking what researchers describe as a regime shift from a macroalgae-poor to a macroalgae-rich ocean. Macroalgae in the tropical Atlantic and western Pacific expanded at 13.4% annually, with cumulative microalgal bloom coverage reaching 43.8 million square kilometres between 2003 and 2022. Major turning points include the emergence of large *Ulva* blooms in the Yellow Sea in 2008 and sargassum blooms in the tropical Atlantic in 2011. Driven by warming oceans and nutrient runoff, the expansion threatens marine ecosystems, coastal tourism, public health, and fishing economies worldwide, with consequences expected to intensify.

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

ANCIENT ARCTIC CARBON IS POURING INTO THE SEA, BUT THE SEABED CAPTURES MOST OF IT

Research by the Alfred Wegener Institute, published in *Nature Geoscience*, has found that Arctic seabeds are capturing most of the ancient carbon released by thawing permafrost, with only approximately 10% converted by microorganisms into greenhouse gases. Sediment cores collected off Canada's Herschel Island revealed that marine bacteria preferentially consume fresh marine carbon over older permafrost carbon, meaning ancient carbon stores may contribute less to atmospheric warming than previously feared. Up to 0.02 gigatonnes of carbon currently enter Arctic seas annually, projected to rise 70 to 150% by 2100. The findings provide important data for refining climate models predicting the consequences of permafrost thaw, whilst also highlighting secondary impacts on coastal Arctic ecosystems through reduced water clarity and diminished primary productivity.

Source: [Here](#), August 03, 2026

COUNTRIES PUT SCIENCE AND PRECAUTION ABOVE RACE TO START DEEP SEABED MINING

The 31st Assembly of the International Seabed Authority concluded without adopting a timeline for finalising deep seabed mining regulations, as scientific uncertainty, governance gaps, and unresolved benefit-sharing disputes continued to impede progress. The number of ISA member states calling for a moratorium or precautionary pause on deep seabed mining rose to 46, over a quarter of all members, with six African nations joining since May 2026. A Vanuatu proposal to establish a mechanism for assessing scientific knowledge gaps was not adopted, though it gained broad support. Governance reform, long overdue under UNCLOS, was again postponed. The session underscores growing international consensus that scientific adequacy and environmental protection must precede any opening of deep ocean ecosystems to commercial mineral extraction.

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

MARINE HEATWAVES ARE COOKING OUR OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS — AND WILL ONLY BECOME MORE COMMON

Marine heatwaves — defined as ocean temperatures exceeding 90% of historical records for at least five consecutive days — are intensifying globally as climate change raises oceanic baselines. Recent events include Western Australia's most severe and prolonged marine heatwave in September 2024, which killed approximately half the coral on the North West Shelf, and 2026 European summer sea surface temperatures surging up to 5°C above average across the Mediterranean, North Sea, and Baltic. Immobile species such as corals, kelp, and seagrass face direct mortality, whilst coastal fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism absorb billions in economic losses. Researchers advocate for sub-surface monitoring, early warning systems, thermal-tolerant species introduction, and urgent greenhouse gas emissions reductions to limit further ocean warming.

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

HARMFUL PLASTIC ADDITIVES MAY BE INTRODUCED INTO MARINE ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH MICROPLASTICS

A Japanese research team has identified numerous toxic plastic additives, including antioxidants, plasticisers, flame retardants, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, in microplastic samples collected from coastal, offshore, riverine, and seafloor environments across Japan. Three chemicals of particular concern were identified: Irgafos 168, the widely detected plasticiser DEHP found at concentrations exceeding 1,000 micrograms per gram in some samples, and HBCD, a brominated flame retardant and persistent organic pollutant detected at 110 to 590 micrograms per gram in offshore waters. The findings demonstrate that chemical leaching from plastic matrices continues at concerning concentrations even after fragmentation, with floating microplastics acting as secondary pollution vectors in marine environments, underscoring the urgent need for stronger plastic waste regulation.

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

GEOPOLITICS

IRAN-OMAN AGREEMENT TO RESTRICT US ACCESS IN STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Iranian media report a draft Tehran-Oman framework agreement to manage traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, reportedly barring US, Israeli and other "hostile" vessels pending compensation, with fines up to 20% of cargo value for violators. The proposed system designates a northern entry corridor near Iran, a southern exit corridor near Oman, later shifting to a jointly-managed middle corridor. Roughly a fifth of global oil and gas transits this chokepoint. Brent crude rose 5.3% to \$83.69 amid the news, while President Trump signalled openness to a deal despite readiness for further action. Should the framework mature into a stable, jointly-administered protocol, it could offer shipping operators clearer navigational predictability, provided implementation avoids further militarisation of the strait.

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

SAUDI ARABIA, TURKEY, PAKISTAN PLEDGE MUTUAL DEFENCE AS MIDDLE EAST TURMOIL ESCALATES

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey signed the "Mecca Joint Defence Agreement" on 7 August 2026, establishing a mutual-defence pact treating an attack on one as an attack on all, following escalating

regional conflict since a US-Israeli strike on Iran on 28 February 2026 and subsequent Iranian missile fire and blockades against Gulf energy shipments; officials stressed the pact is defensive, not sectarian or nuclear-linked, while Pakistan and Turkey also backed Saudi Arabia's proposed maritime coalition to protect regional shipping and energy routes, with India's Foreign Ministry saying it was monitoring developments closely. The pact signals growing Gulf-South Asian security convergence amid strained confidence in US protection, with direct implications for maritime security given the endorsed shipping-protection coalition; for India, a nuclear-armed Pakistan formalising defence ties with Saudi Arabia bears close watching, though the trilateral's stated focus on deterrence rather than confrontation offers scope for continued diplomatic engagement across the region.

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

India and Australia Enhance Strategic Relationship, Prioritise Maritime Domain Awareness to Secure Indo-Pacific

India and Australia held their second Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi on 1 June 2026, advancing maritime security cooperation including a Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap, maritime domain awareness, and Underwater Domain Awareness to counter expanding submarine activity in the Indo-Pacific, building on the NPOL-DSTG towed-array sonar project. The sides expanded military exercises (Austrahind, Ausindex, Talisman Sabre), endorsed the Quad Maritime Surveillance initiative, and progressed defence-industrial ties via a forthcoming MoU, alongside growing trade and critical minerals cooperation under the ECTA. This deepening partnership reflects India's calibrated diversification strategy amid strained US ties, positioning both nations as pivotal, durable Indo-Pacific stabilisers against China's expanding undersea and naval footprint.

Source: [Here](#), August 10, 2026

‘INDIA SHOWING INTEREST’: PUTIN SAYS COOPERATION GROWING ON NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

President Vladimir Putin said India is showing growing interest in Russia's Northern Sea Route (NSR), as Moscow seeks to develop the Arctic corridor into a major trade link with Asia amid Western sanctions over Ukraine. India and Russia have agreed to develop NSR shipping and establish a joint cooperation mechanism, complementing existing connectivity projects such as the International North-South Transport Corridor and Chennai-Vladivostok route, though the route remains technically demanding and dependent on ice-strengthened vessels. This engagement reflects India's strategic diversification of energy and trade routes rather than a shift away from existing partnerships, positioning it to benefit from an emerging Arctic corridor as commercial viability gradually improves, while maintaining a calibrated, multi-vector approach to connectivity.

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

US CLAIMS ‘TOTAL CONTROL’ OVER HORMUZ STRAIT AMID ONGOING TENSIONS

President Trump claimed the United States holds "total control" over the Strait of Hormuz, escalating tensions with Tehran amid deadlocked negotiations over the waterway's status. Whilst Pakistan's Defence Minister suggested both sides may be close to an arrangement, Iran's security council secretary Mohsen Rezaee clarified that agreements with Oman would not constitute a comprehensive reopening of maritime traffic, with Tehran maintaining additional demands including cessation of hostilities and release of frozen assets. The interim June peace accord has been rendered effectively obsolete by continued maritime

incidents, with the US naval blockade of Iranian ports resuming. Qatar and Pakistan are actively mediating, though a durable resolution to the crisis affecting approximately one-fifth of global oil and LNG trade remains elusive.

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