

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

"ASSESS SECURITY RISKS": CENTRE'S BLACK SEA ADVISORY TO INDIAN SAILORS

The Ministry of External Affairs has advised Indian nationals to assess prevailing security risks before accepting employment on vessels operating in or transiting the Black Sea. The advisory follows the deaths of five Indian seafarers in two separate attacks within a week — four in a strike on a ship at Odesa port on 19 July, and one in a further attack the following day. Citing a rise in missile and drone strikes on commercial shipping since April, the Ministry has asked prospective crew to obtain clear information on vessel routes, port calls, and security arrangements from employers, and to ensure contracts provide for medical care, evacuation, and repatriation. Seafarers currently deployed in the region have been advised to remain in regular contact with family and to note the location of the nearest Indian mission.

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

MV AMIR1 WITH 13 INDIAN SEAFARERS TRAPPED AT UKRAINE'S CHORNOMORSK PORT

The Indian Embassy in Kyiv is monitoring the situation of merchant vessel MV AMIR1, which is berthed at Ukraine's Chornomorsk Port with 13 Indians among its 15 crew, amid repeated drone and missile attacks in the vicinity. The Embassy said on 30 July it was in constant touch with all concerned authorities to ensure the crew's safety. The Forward Seamen's Union of India has appealed to the Government, shipowners, and flag state to arrange the crew's immediate evacuation, stating that Indian seafarers "must not be left as sitting targets in conflict zones." The incident follows the 25 July strike on MV AGN Ragnar at Odesa port, in which four Indians were aboard and two remain missing, and comes amid a string of Black Sea attacks this month that have killed five Indian seafarers and prompted India to summon both the Russian and Ukrainian envoys over separate incidents.

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

SOMALI PIRATES CONTINUE TO HOLD FOUR VESSELS WITH 67 CREWMEMBERS

Four vessels remain under Somali pirate control three months after the initial hijackings, with 67 crew members still held captive in deteriorating humanitarian conditions — including shortages of clean water and food. The vessels MT Honour 25, MV Seward, MT Eureka, and MT Asana were seized between April and July, carrying oil products, fertiliser, and multinational crews including Pakistani, Syrian, Egyptian, and Indian nationals. EU Operation Atalanta confirmed continued commitment to securing their release, though proximity to the Somali coast limits operational options. The resurgence underscores how the Persian Gulf crisis has emboldened Somali piracy across the wider Indian Ocean Region.

Source: [Here](#), July 31, 2026

HORMUZ TRAFFIC LEVELS CONTINUE DECREASING, HOUTHIS IN YEMEN THREATEN SAUDI TANKERS

Strait of Hormuz transits fell 52.4% in the week of 20–27 July compared to the previous week, dropping to single-digit daily levels not seen since March. Iran rejected an Omani shared-governance proposal, signalling intent to negotiate dominant control over the strait post-war. Shadow fleet vessels are

increasingly flipping into mainstream trades, whilst UAE VLCCs are transiting without AIS amid unprecedented demand. Meanwhile, Houthis resumed maritime attacks, Red Sea transits declined to 225 from 311 the prior week, and Caspian drone strikes and LNG facility attacks compounded global shipping disruption. Analysts warn global freight markets now constitute a three-dimensional geopolitical challenge, with multiple simultaneous maritime crises interacting in ways that amplify systemic risk.

Source: [Here](#), July 31, 2026

IRGC FIRES WARNING SHOTS AT FOUR VESSELS IN STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy fired warning shots at four vessels attempting to transit the southern Strait of Hormuz over a 24-hour period, forcing them to alter course, state broadcaster IRIB reported on 26 July. The IRGC described the vessels' intended path as an "illegal and unsafe route" but did not identify the ships, their nationalities, or their cargo, and the claim has not been independently verified. No damage or injuries were reported. The incident followed by a day a separate attack on the Mozambique-flagged LPG tanker DISHA in Iranian territorial waters, which was carrying 28 Indian crew; the Indian Embassy in Tehran confirmed the attack and said all crew members were safe. Iranian officials have not linked the two events, and roughly a fifth of global oil consumption transits the strait, leaving shipping firms in the Gulf watching for further disruption.

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

MARITIME FORCES

US FORCES REDIRECT 5 COMMERCIAL VESSELS, DISABLE 1 AFTER RESUMPTION OF NAVAL BLOCKADE ON IRAN

US Central Command said on 18 July that American forces have redirected five commercial vessels and disabled one since resuming a naval blockade against Iran, with the USS Donald Cook conducting enforcement operations in the Arabian Sea. The disabled vessel, the Curacao-flagged M/T Belma, was struck with Hellfire missiles in its smokestack on 15 July after allegedly ignoring repeated warnings while transiting toward Iran's Kharg Island; CENTCOM said it disabled a separate unladen oil tanker headed for an Iranian port the same day. The blockade resumed on 14 July following the collapse of a 14-point memorandum of understanding reached the previous month, which had aimed to end hostilities and open talks on Iran's nuclear programme and Strait of Hormuz security; since its collapse, the US has struck Iranian military and civilian assets, and Iran has retaliated against American bases across the Gulf.

Source: [Here](#), July 19, 2026

OPERATION SOUTHERN READINESS 26-2 CONCLUDES AT SOUTHERN NAVAL COMMAND, KOCHI

The Indian Navy and Combined Maritime Forces concluded Operation Southern Readiness 26-2, a four-day multinational maritime security training engagement, at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, on 23 July, drawing 276 personnel from 27 countries under the Indian Navy-led Combined Task Force 154. RAdm Deepak Singhal inaugurated the programme on 20 July, and the closing ceremony featured an address by Cmde Milind M Mokashi, Commander CTF 154. Training covered maritime domain awareness, maritime law, counter-narcotics, and uncrewed maritime systems, alongside practical drills in damage control, firefighting, and boarding procedures, generating 3,800 training man-hours over four days.

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

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS INS MALVAN, THE 2ND OF MAHE-CLASS ASW SWC

INS *Malvan*, the second of eight indigenously built Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was commissioned at Karwar on 22 July by Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, in the presence of Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited with over 80 percent indigenous content, the vessel is equipped for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, and low-intensity maritime operations, and is the sixth of 16 planned ASW-SWCs to join the Navy. Air Chief Marshal Singh underlined the importance of securing sea lines of communication and called for greater tri-service integration.

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

A GLOBAL MILESTONE FOR RAFAEL: 1,000TH TYPHOON SYSTEM DELIVERED TO THE ISRAELI NAVY

Rafael Advanced Defence Systems has delivered its 1,000th TYPHOON, a stabilised, remotely operated naval weapon station now integrated on platforms across 25 navies and maritime forces worldwide, including the United States, Canada, and Australia. The system has been in service with the Israeli Navy since 2000, and Rafael has recently delivered TYPHOON Mk-30c units to strengthen vessels, including the Sa'ar 6 corvettes, with further systems and Mini-TYPHOON integrations planned in the coming years. TYPHOON engages both surface and aerial threats, including small, fast, low-signature UAVs and drones, using high-capacity magazines and rapid ammunition switching, and supports advanced munitions such as Air Burst Munition rounds. Rafael CEO Yoav Tourgeman said the milestone reflects sustained trust from navies "in Rafael's operational capabilities" amid an increasingly contested naval environment.

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

LAUNCH OF MACHILIPATNAM, THE SEVENTH OF THE MAHE-CLASS ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT

Machilipatnam (BY 529), the seventh of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy, was launched on 29 July by Mrs Goolrukh Anand in the presence of Vice Admiral Atul Anand, Additional Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, along with senior officials from the Navy and CSL. The vessel takes its name from Machilipatnam, a historic port city in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district long associated with trade along India's eastern seaboard. Equipped for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, and low-intensity maritime operations, the ship is built with indigenous content exceeding 80 percent and is expected to strengthen coastal defence and maritime domain awareness once commissioned.

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

SHIPPING, PORTS AND OCEAN ECONOMY

GOVT APPROVES ₹69,725 CRORE PACKAGE TO REVITALISE SHIPBUILDING SECTOR

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal told Parliament that the government has approved a ₹69,725 crore package built on four pillars: the ₹24,736 crore Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme, the ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund, and the ₹19,989 crore Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), which aims to expand India's shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million GT annually through greenfield clusters

and existing-yard expansion. In-principle approval has been granted for three greenfield clusters in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu, alongside infrastructure status for large Indian-flagged vessels and a 400-plus vessel fleet acquisition plan to give shipyards long-term order visibility. Skilling efforts include 727 trainees under a 150-hour on-the-job programme across 11 shipyards, part of 92,697 people trained over three years. Citing UNCTAD data, Sonowal said India's shipbuilding output rose 41% year-on-year, from 40,923 GT in 2024 to 57,637 GT in 2025.

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

DPA KANDLA SETS NEW NATIONAL RECORD FOR SINGLE-DAY CARGO HANDLING

Deendayal Port Authority Kandla handled 7,83,816 MT of cargo on 26 July, breaking its own national record of 7,78,570 MT set on 17 June. The Offshore Oil Terminal at Vadinar also set a new 24-hour benchmark of 5,09,101 MT of liquid cargo, comprising 2,55,557 MT of crude oil, 40,534 MT of POL, and 2,13,010 MT of LPO, surpassing its previous mark of 5,07,397 MT. DPA Chairman Sushil Kumar Singh credited port stakeholders, including exporters, shipping lines, terminal operators, and Shramiks, for the achievement.

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

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST SUPPLIER OF SEAFARERS

India has become the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, contributing 311,936 maritime professionals — 12.16% of the global workforce — behind only the Philippines, according to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026. The share has more than doubled from 5.2% in 2015 and 6% in 2021, when India ranked fifth; it now supplies 140,718 officers (13.41% of the global officer pool) and 171,218 ratings (11.29% of ratings). The report puts the global seafarer supply at 2.57 million against the demand of 2.55 million, pointing to a persistent officer shortage worldwide. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal attributed the rise to a decade of reforms, including five new maritime laws enacted since 2021, and said the government is now targeting a 20% global share under "Mission 20%".

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

GOVERNMENT DETAILS SHIPBUILDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND MARITIME DEVELOPMENT FUND

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS), an extension of the earlier SBFAP, carries an outlay of ₹24,736 crore to offset the cost disadvantage Indian shipyards face against global competitors. A separate Maritime Development Fund (MDF), with a ₹25,000 crore corpus split between a ₹20,000 crore Maritime Investment Fund and a ₹5,000 crore Interest Incentivisation Fund, has been set up to provide long-term financing for the shipbuilding and maritime sector. SBFAS guidelines were issued on 26 December 2025 and MDF guidelines on 20 February 2026, with SBI Ventures Limited appointed Fund Manager for the MIF on 26 May. Both schemes are aligned with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, which targets a top-10 ranking in ship ownership and shipbuilding by 2030 and top-5 by 2047.

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

APSEZ REPORTS 19% REVENUE GROWTH IN Q1 FY27, LED BY INTERNATIONAL AND MARINE BUSINESS

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) reported consolidated revenue of ₹10,821 crore for the quarter ended 30 June, up 19% year-on-year, with EBITDA rising by the same margin. International ports revenue surged 80% to ₹1,747 crore, and EBITDA jumped 256% to ₹730 crore, led by operations in Australia and Colombo, while marine revenue climbed 67% to ₹901 crore on the back of new offshore vessels and expanding European subsea operations. Domestic port revenue grew 12% on higher cargo volumes, with EBITDA margin holding at 74%. During the quarter, S&P Global upgraded APSEZ's credit rating from BBB- to BBB, CARE and ICRA reaffirmed its AAA domestic rating, and the company became the first Indian transport firm to publish a TNFD nature-related disclosures report.

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

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

INDIA'S OIL SARDINE SUPPLY TO FACE EL NIÑO IMPACTS IN 2027

CMFRI Director Grinson George said El Niño-linked warming, expected to intensify between October and December, is likely to bring marine heatwaves, elevated sea surface temperatures, and high salinity across the northern Indian Ocean by April or May 2027, speaking at a scientist-farmer interface programme on 10 July. Oil sardine stocks remain abundant this year, he said, but small pelagic fish are among the most vulnerable to ocean warming and could see reduced production if the projected heatwaves materialise. CMFRI plans to issue El Niño advisories to fishermen and fish farmers within the year, and George warned that sudden rainfall following prolonged heat and salinity could also disrupt coastal aquaculture through rapid salinity swings. He called for continuous monitoring and adaptive management to protect marine resources and coastal livelihoods.

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

SPERM WHALES ALTER VOCAL PATTERNS NEAR SHIPS, PROJECT CETI STUDY FINDS

Researchers from Project Ceti found that sperm whales off Dominica produce a distinct clicking pattern when ships are nearby, altering the tempo of their "codas" so consistently that the change alone can now predict whether vessels are in the area. Analysing over 1,000 codas from 15 whales tracked over four years, the team found individual click sequences grew shorter and faster near shipping noise, verified against vessel geolocation data. Rather than simply calling louder, as many marine species do, the whales shifted which vowel-like sounds they favoured, a finding project lead Gašper Beguš said suggests the "vowels" identified in earlier work may carry meaningful information. Independent researcher Nathan Merchant said the causal link seemed plausible but called for further study to determine what the vocal changes actually convey.

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

INDIA AMONG HIGHEST-RISK REGIONS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES AS STRANDED HORMUZ SHIPS PREPARE TO SAIL

More than 1,500 commercial vessels stranded in the Gulf since the Strait of Hormuz closed on 28 February pose a "super-spreader" biodiversity risk, an international team of marine biologists warned, after months of stationary hulls became heavily colonised by algae, barnacles, and other invertebrates that could hitchhike to ports worldwide once trade resumes. Study lead Prof Mario Tamburri of the University of

Maryland said the Gulf's extreme heat and salinity make surviving organisms unusually hardy invaders, and identified ports with similar warm, saline conditions — including India and Singapore — as facing the highest risk and requiring heightened alert. The Gulf is already a known hotspot for marine invasions linked to shipping, and researchers have urged vessel inspection and cleaning before departure, alongside stronger port monitoring and rapid-response plans at destination.

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

LISTENING OFFERS A CLEARER PICTURE OF INDIA'S HIDDEN FINLESS PORPOISES

The Indo-Pacific finless porpoise, one of India's smallest cetaceans, is likely far more prevalent in Indian coastal waters than visual sightings indicate, Mongabay India reports. A 2025 study off Goa's Sindhudurg coast found acoustic surveys, which detect the species' echolocation clicks, picked up porpoises four times more often than visual surveys, since its dorsal-fin-less body and turbid habitat make it easy to miss. Lead author Isha Bopardikar said visual-only counts likely capture just part of the true population. The species faces heavy bycatch mortality — an estimated 26 die annually along 100 km of Goa's coast — worsened by spade-shaped teeth that snag in nets; researcher Dipani Sutaria said the animals "get stressed easily" when entangled. Industrial noise further threatens their acoustic world.

Source: [Here](#), July 31, 2026

INDIA'S MONSOON RAINS IN DANGER AS UN CHIEF WARNS PLANET IS 'ON FIRE'

UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned on 31 July that a strengthening El Niño, which could break all-time temperature records, is adding intensity to an already-heating planet and pushing the world into unfamiliar conditions. India's monsoon is currently running well below average, with hotter and drier conditions forecast across Central America, South America, South Asia, the Southwest Pacific, Europe, and Africa. The World Meteorological Organization's outlook, released the same day, found Pacific sea-surface temperatures now averaging 3°C above normal and projected nearly every landmass on Earth to run hotter than usual through October. The WMO has separately flagged El Niño as a driver of severe drought across South Asia, Indonesia, and Australia. Guterres called for the world to move away from the fossil fuels driving planet-wide warming rather than treating each disaster in isolation.

Source: [Here](#), July 31, 2026

GEOPOLITICS

INDIA LEADS BIMSTEC SECURITY PUSH AS MEMBER STATES UNITE AGAINST TERRORISM, MARITIME AND EMERGING THREATS

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval hosted counterparts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand for the 5th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting in New Delhi on 16 July, focused on terrorism, organised crime, maritime and cyber security, disaster management, and energy security across the Bay of Bengal region. Doval noted that disruptions in global supply chains have resulted in economic hardship for all member countries and called for decisive, collective action to address shared challenges. The meeting's key outcome was the adoption of guidelines for the maritime component of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, meant to speed coordinated relief operations across the region, alongside a set of principles governing at-sea interactions among member states' maritime law enforcement agencies to improve safety and predictability. The discussions come ahead of BIMSTEC's 30th anniversary next year.

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

ON SIDELINES OF ASEAN MEET, JAISHANKAR HOLDS TALKS WITH CHINA'S WANG YI, RUSSIA'S LAVROV, QUAD

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila, welcoming steps toward normalisation while flagging market access, trade balance, and supply chain predictability as unresolved concerns. He also attended the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian FM Penny Wong, and Japanese FM Toshimitsu Motegi, which reaffirmed commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. In a separate meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Jaishankar raised concerns over Indian seafarer safety, days after India summoned Russia's Charge d'Affaires over an attack on the Guinea-Bissau-flagged MV Golden Leo that killed five Indian crew among nine dead.

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

INDIA CONDEMNS HORMUZ ATTACKS AT UNSC, CITES ONE DEAD AND ONE MISSING

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, told a UN Security Council debate that recent attacks on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz — including GFS *Galaxy*, MT *Al Bahiyah*, and MT *Mombasa* — left several Indians injured, one dead, and one missing, and called the resumption of hostilities "deeply concerning." Daily transits through the strait, which exceeded 100 before the conflict, fell to as low as 8-15 by mid-July after Iran redeclared the closure on 11 July, according to UNESCAP figures. Harish noted India's roughly \$180 billion in bilateral trade and 10 million citizens living and working in the Gulf, and separately condemned Houthi attacks on Red Sea navigation while calling for a durable political solution in Gaza.

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

SUBSEA CABLES EMERGE AS NEW STRATEGIC FRONT IN WEST ASIA CONFLICT

As the West Asia war widens to draw in Egypt, Kuwait, and Azerbaijan alongside earlier combatants, attention is turning to the roughly 17 subsea internet cables running through the region, which Iran is reportedly seeking to control by imposing fees and regulatory conditions on operators including Google, Microsoft, Meta, and Amazon under UNCLOS provisions governing coastal-state territory. Nearly 60% of India's internet traffic runs through western routes via cables such as AAE-1, Tata TGN Gulf, and SEA-ME-WE 4, all passing through the Strait of Hormuz corridor. Experts note a full shutdown is unlikely since traffic can reroute through other cables, though a prior regional flare-up ruptured three India-linked cables and disrupted 25% of global internet traffic; damaged cables can take a prolonged period to repair, particularly amid active conflict, and Meta has already paused subsea cable expansion into Africa via the region.

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

RUSSIA'S SHARE IN INDIA'S CRUDE IMPORTS HITS FRESH HIGH IN JULY AS REFINERS STICK WITH URALS CRUDE

India imported a record 2.8 million barrels per day of Russian crude in July, up from 2.7 mbpd in June, taking Russia's share to nearly 55% of total imports, according to Kpler data cited by ThePrint. The record came despite Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries and renewed Houthi threats to Red Sea shipping,

with analysts noting refiners still favour cheaper Russian barrels as Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb disruptions tighten the market. Saudi imports rebounded to around 414,000 bpd from 290,000 bpd in June during a brief US-Iran truce, though no India-bound Saudi tanker has arrived since a Houthi blockade was announced on 20 July.

Source: [Here](#), July 31, 2026