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Indian Ocean Watch

A Monthly Newsletter on the Indian Ocean Region



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This Newsletter tracks developments in the following countries of the Indian Ocean region

Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The month of May saw several important developments in the Indian Ocean Region on the maritime security front. Indonesia and Philippines signed a 'model' maritime border accord; and several joint naval exercises between different countries also took place in the region. India held a Coordinated Patrol Naval Exercise with Indonesia at Medan and another joint exercise with Singapore as well. The Iranian and Pakistani Navies also held a one-day naval drill in the Indian Ocean.

On the economic front, Bangladesh signed a MoU to lease excess internet bandwidth to India. Seychelles signed a strategic fisheries accord with the EU on Mayotte. China is funding over a billion-dollar for its Maritime Silk Route project. It was also reported that the Iranian Chabahar Port may be funded by India in some aspects.

On the environmental scene, Indonesia took steps to make a green finance sector. South Africa topped carbon footprint chart in Africa. India expressed support for a stable maritime environment within UNCLOS framework. Experts from around the Indian Ocean Rim recently met to discuss ways to improve their disaster resilience and management of future climate risk.

Hope this issue will be useful for the readers.

Ruchita Beri

Editor

MARITIME SECURITY

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) gets third-in series of Cape Class Patrol Boat (CCPB)

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) got its third-in series Cape Class Patrol Boat (CCPB) delivered at by ship building company Austal. The boat named Cape Nelson is the third of eight 56-metre patrol boats that are being delivered to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) by Austal as prime contractor for a design, build and in-service sustainment contract, valued at approximately US\$330 million. Under the contract, Austal is using its in-house expertise to develop and integrate sophisticated electronic systems for command, control and communication.¹

Australian Navy's HMAS Darwin seizes largest amount of heroin from a vessel

Australian Navy's HMAS Darwin seized a total of 786 kilograms of hashish in 37 bags hidden onboard a vessel in international waters. The drug is said to have a street value of AUD30 million. HMAS Darwin had in April 2014 seized the largest ever amount of heroin from a vessel on the high seas, which consisted of 1,032 kg of heroin with a probable street value of AUD289 million. Australian Defence Minister David Johnston congratulated the ship's crew on its second big seizure. The HMAS Darwin is part of the UK-led Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150). The Combined Task Force is a 30 nation naval force responsible for imposing maritime security in the Middle East and Indian Ocean regions.²

Indian naval ship deployed for cooperative surveillance in Seychelles' EEZ

As part of a defence and security cooperation agreement between Seychelles and India, the Indian Navy has been carrying out surveillance of Seychelles' EEZ for the past few years. As part of a mission to carry out surveillance of Seychelles' exclusive economic zone (EEZ), Indian naval ship Trishul visited Port Victoria from April 29 to May 7, 2014. The ship was also carrying an air conditioning compressor for PS Topaz, which was being repaired by the Indian Navy. Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) personnel were also trained in navigation, seamanship and other skills onboard the vessel during the surveillance. The technical experts of the ship helped the SCG rectify minor defects onboard various SCG ships. The ship's doctors also visited Missionaries of Charity Old People's Home at Anse Etoile, where they provided assistance for area maintenance and medical support to the old age home.³

India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol Naval Exercise at Medan

The 23rd edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol Naval Exercise (INDINDO CORPAT) started at Port Blair, India, on April 14 and concluded at Medan, Indonesia, on May 3, 2014. Mr Gurjit Singh, the Ambassador of India to Indonesia, ASEAN and Timor Leste, expressed his confidence that the strategic partnership between India and Indonesia would be strengthened further through greater operational interaction between the two navies. The Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) and the Indian Navy, under the broad

¹ "Third Cape Class Patrol Boat slips into the water at Austal", *World Maritime News*, May 5, 2014, at <http://worldmaritimeneeds.com/archives/122915/third-cape-class-patrol-boat-slips-into-the-water-at-austal/>

² "Australian warship's fourth large drug seizure", *MarineLink.com*, May 23, 2014, at <http://www.marinelink.com/news/australian-warships369700.aspx>

³ "Indian naval ship helps in EEZ surveillance", *Seychelles Nation*, May 14, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241669>

ambit of their strategic partnership, carry out coordinated patrolling twice a year near the International Maritime Boundary Line. The exercise intends to keep this part of the Indian Ocean region safe for shipping and international trade.⁴

India strengthening defence ties with Indonesia

During the closing ceremony of the 23rd session of the joint naval exercise between India and Indonesia, the Ambassador of India to Jakarta Gurjit Singh expressed that the country is committed to establish close defence ties with Indonesia. He was confident that the strategic partnership between the two countries would be buttressed in the future. The ambassador opined that the close geographical proximity between North Sumatra and India has intensified trade relations between the two nations over the centuries which now need to concentrate on working towards new investment in infrastructure, tourism and healthcare. The governor of the Indonesian province of North Sumatra Gatot Pujonogroho, who was called by the Ambassador, affirmed that his administration would provide all possible assistance in this regard. The 23rd session of the joint naval exercise between the two maritime neighbours, code-named INDINDO CORPAT started at Port Blair on April 14 and concluded in the port of Belwan-Medan in Sumatra on May 3. At the joint exercise, the Parchim Class corvette KRI Imam Bonjol and the latest indigenously built maritime patrol aircraft CN 235 by the Indonesian Navy took part. The presence of the two commanders-in-chief Rear Admiral Arief Rudianto of the Indonesia's Western Fleet Command and Air Marshal P.K. Roy from India's Andaman Nicobar Command made this event the highest level of interaction.⁵

Joint naval exercise between India and Singapore

A week-long joint naval exercise titled SIMBEX-14 was conducted by the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. From the Indian side, naval ships Kuthar and Karmuk from the Eastern Naval Command participated along with a Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a helicopter from Andaman and Nicobar Command. The 2014 edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was the 21st exercise between India and Singapore to facilitate bilateral naval cooperation. The SIMBEX has strengthened in terms of tactical and operational complexity, moving towards more complex maritime exercises including different naval operations such as air defence, air and surface practice firing, maritime security and search and rescue operations.⁶

'Model' maritime border accord between Indonesia and Philippines

Indonesia has signed a maritime border accord with Philippines. It is expected to be a model for peacefully resolving the increasingly tense territorial disputes in the Southeast Asian region. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the President of Indonesia, claimed that the accord is a result of a long period of 20 years of negotiations. He said that it shows that any dispute including maritime border disputes and increasing tensions in the South China Sea can be resolved without violence. The agreement is a proof of the commitment of the two countries to uphold the rule of law and pursuit of equitable and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes. The accord delineates the boundaries overlapping exclusive economic zones of the two signing nations in the Mindanao Sea, the Celebes Sea and the Philippine Sea.⁷

⁴ "Indian ambassador witnesses India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol Naval Exercise at Medan", *Jakarta Globe*, May 31, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/microsite/india-business-forum/news-india-business-forum/indian-ambassador-witnesses-india-indonesia-coordinated-patrol-naval-exercise-medan/>

⁵ "India committed to closer defence ties with Indonesia: Envoy", *daijiworld.com*, May 7, 2014, at http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=233356

⁶ "India, Singapore begin joint naval exercise", *The New Indian Express*, May 23, 2014, at <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/India-Singapore-Begin-Joint-Naval-Exercise/2014/05/23/article2240028.ece>

⁷ "Philippines, Indonesia sign 'model' maritime border accord", *Jakarta Globe*, May 23, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/philippines-indonesia-sign-model-maritime-border-accord/>

Iranian and Pakistani Navies hold one-day naval drill in the Indian Ocean

A one-day joint naval exercise was held by the Iranian and Pakistani Navies in the Northern waters of the Indian Ocean. The naval exercise was aimed at increasing cooperation between the two navies. During the exercise both the navies rehearsed various types of military and tactical formations of vessels and submarines. Earlier in April 2014, Pakistan and Iranian navy had conducted joint naval exercises in the Persian Gulf. Iranian naval commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said that on their way to the high seas many Iranian naval ships have docked in Pakistan. The Rear Admiral said that on May 9, 2014 “five submarines and warships of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s Navy berthed in Pakistan”. Iranian navy has gradually increased its presence in international waters in recent years. The aim is to protect naval routes and provide security for trade vessels and tankers. Iran has repeatedly emphasized that its overseas naval presence is meant to convey a message of peace and friendship to other countries. Iranian officials and commanders have repeatedly stressed that all military exercises and trainings of the Iranian Armed Forces are merely meant to serve deterrent purposes.⁸

Eight vessels intercepted by Malaysian security forces

Eight vessels from the southern Philippines trying to enter the waters off Sabah’s east coast were intercepted by the Malaysian security forces. From among the vessels, the security personnel managed to detain a pumpboat. The boat was carrying two individuals as well 25 cans used to smuggle fuel from Sabah to the southern Philippines.⁹

Malaysia stops construction of lighthouse on Indonesian request

On the objections of the Indonesian Government, Malaysia has halted the construction of a lighthouse off the coast of Kalimantan. Indonesia claimed that the area on which it was being built falls in Indonesian waters. In the wake of the incident, teams from the two countries will meet in near future to discuss the delimitation of the maritime borders. Indonesia says that the lighthouse was being built in its continental shelf area identified in a 1969 treaty between Malaysia and Indonesia. The construction activity by Malaysia is being considered as a breach of the 1969 treaty. The Indonesian officers monitoring the situation had reported the presence of six Malaysian ships, including one war ship at the site.¹⁰

Military exercise ‘Bersama Shield’

On May 22, 2014, began Exercise Bersama Shield which saw naval forces from Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom come together in a critical test of interoperability. Exercise Bersama Shield is part of the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) that came into being in 1971. The FPDA is a multilateral arrangement between Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom. The ninth FPDA will meet on June 1, 2014 in Johore Baru, Malaysia.¹¹

Oman adds a new corvette Al Rasikh to its fleet

The United Kingdom’s defence manufacturer BAE Systems handed over third Khareef Class corvette Al Rasikh to the Royal navy of Oman at HM Naval Base Portsmouth. Al Rasikh is the third ship under Project

⁸ “Iran, Pakistan stage joint naval drill in Indian Ocean”, *Pakistan Observer*, May 11, 2014, at <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=241061>

⁹ “Malaysian security forces intercept eight vessels attempting to enter Sabah waters”, *The Star Online*, May 21, 2014, at <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2014/05/21/Sabahboast-intercept/>

¹⁰ “Malaysia stops lighthouse construction on disputed border area”, *Jakarta Globe*, May 22, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/malaysia-stops-lighthouse-construction-disputed-border-area/>

¹¹ “SE Asia military exercise ‘Bersama Shield’ Begins Soon”, *MarineLink.com*, May 21, 2014, at <http://www.marinelink.com/news/military-exercise-bersama369598.aspx>

Khareef produced by BAE Systems. BAE Systems has already delivered Al Shamikh and Al Rahmani Khareef Class corvettes to the Royal Navy of Oman. The Khareef Class corvettes are equipped to defend against both surface and air threats with stealth features to operate undetected, an innovative hull design and electric propulsion to provide exceptional maneuverability. The ship is capable of undertaking a range of operations including coastal patrols, disaster relief, search and rescue and deterrence operations. Al Rasikh will sail to Davenport where its crew will receive training before sailing to Oman.¹²

UN body on maritime security elects Seychelles as co-chair

Following its successful nomination during the plenary session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), Seychelles has been elected the co-chair of Working Group 3 on maritime operations and coordination. The other co-chairs of the group are the United Arab Emirates and Japan. The election was unanimous that demonstrates the importance of Seychelles to secure the Indian Ocean. The country has played a vital role in ensuring the end of impunity for Somalia-based piracy. The stakeholders in the CGPCS have also officially endorsed measures to streamline and refine the group's structures with a view to make it more cost efficient. The system of co-chairs in the working groups has been devised to increase regional involvement and representation.¹³

South Africa provides test range to the Turkish Maritime Task Group

At the Denel Overberg Test Range in South Africa, the Barbaros Turkish Maritime Task Group - 2014

(TMTG-14) successfully completed a complex live-fire exercise. The main aim of the Turkish Group was a 102 day circumnavigation of Africa and to conduct live weapon firings of various missiles at the Denel Overberg Test Range. The Task Group comprises of the frigates TCG Gediz (F-495) and TCG Orucreis (F-245), the corvette TCG Heybeliada (F-511) and the replenishment tanker TCG Yarbay Kudret Gungor (A-595). Denel, the largest manufacturer of defence equipments in South Africa provided the Turkish Navy such test ranges that allowed it to perform firing tasks in scenarios that are now possible in its own country. For the first time, the Turkish Navy has been able to fire missiles and guns on fast moving drones from different directions. The Group is also tasked to maintain an anti-piracy vigil from Mozambique to the Suez Canal.¹⁴

South African vessel contributed immensely in Operation Copper

SAS Spioenkop, a Valour-class South African Navy frigate, completed a five month successful deployment on South Africa's anti-piracy mission in the Mozambique Channel. The mission is known as Operation Copper. The frigate had left South Africa for deployment off Mozambique on December 28, 2013. The mission aims to prevent piracy and ensure maritime security in the Mozambique Channel. The mission began as a trilateral cooperation, but since the withdrawal of Tanzania, it remains as a bilateral cooperative measure between South Africa and Mozambique. The South African Navy said that the Spioenkop contributed immensely in the anti-piracy vigil and operations in the Mozambique Channel. A statement from the South African Navy informs that there has been no reported incident of piracy since the

¹² "Oman parades new warship", *World Maritime News*, May 29, 2014, at <http://worldmaritimenews.com/archives/125330/oman-parades-new-warship/>

¹³ "Seychelles elected co-chair of key UN body on maritime security", *Seychelles Nation*, May 19, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241725>

¹⁴ "Turkish Navy in successful live fire exercise at South African range", *Defence Web*, May 19, 2014, at http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34707:turkish-navy-in-successful-live-fire-exercise-at-south-african-range&catid=51:Sea&Itemid=106

South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF) was deployed in the Mozambique Channel.¹⁵

Sri Lanka releases Indian fishermen

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa ordered the release of all detained fishermen of Indian origin on the eve of the swearing-in ceremony of the Indian Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi. The Indian fishermen were arrested for trespassing into the territorial waters of Sri Lanka. The bilateral talks between India and Sri Lanka that started in January have been going on to resolve the fishermen arrest issue that takes shape of a political controversy in India.¹⁶

Euro 2.3 million EU plan for the EAC to strengthen maritime security

A co-operation deal with the European Union worth Euro 2.3 million has been signed by the secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) for improving maritime security and creating favourable economic environment. This maritime security programme is part of a larger package to the four African regional blocs (EAC, Comesa, IGAD and IOC). It aims to strengthen the capacities of the countries of these regions in the implementation of the anti-piracy action plan adopted in 2010. The EAC has to lead efforts to strengthen legal and logistical capacity to arrest, transfer, detain and prosecute pirates at national and regional level. The programme will support the EAC for safer coasts.¹⁷

HMS Somerset seizes heroine worth US\$22.5 million in Arabian Sea

HMS Somerset of Royal British Navy seized heroine worth US\$22.5 million from a dhow in the Northern

Arabian Sea on May 25, 2014. HMS Somerset is part of the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150). CTF-150 is one of the three naval task forces that are part of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The CMF aims to fight terrorism, piracy and related illicit activity across more than 2.5 million square miles of ocean, including the Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman. The CMF is headquartered in Bahrain. UK Royal Navy Commodore Jeremy Blunden, commander, CTF-150, said, "This is the ninth seizure of heroin that CTF-150 has made this year as part of a determined effort to combat both the flow of heroin across the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean and funding to terrorist organisations".¹⁸

RIMPAC 2014 sees Brunei and China participate for the first time

The world's largest maritime exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) is scheduled to start from June 26, 2014. The People's Republic of China and Kingdom of Brunei will participate for the first time in the RIMPAC exercise. RIMPAC is hosted by the United States Pacific Fleet and will be led by US Vice Adm Kenneth Floyd, commander of the U.S. Third Fleet (C3F), who will serve as the Combined Task Force (CTF) Commander. Royal Australian Navy Rear Adm. Simon Cullen will serve as deputy commander of the CTF, and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Rear Adm Yasuki Nakahata as the vice commander. The RIMPAC 2014 will see the participation of 47 ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircrafts and altogether 25,000 personnel from 23 nations. Along with first time participants China and Brunei, other nations participating in RIMPAC include Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea,

¹⁵ "SAS Spioenkop returns from Operation Copper", *Defence Web*, May 14, 2014, at http://www.defencewebsite.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34657:sas-spioenkop-returns-from-operation-copper&catid=51:Sea&Itemid=106

¹⁶ "Pakistan releases Indian fishermen, Sri Lanka to follow", *The Times of India*, May 25, 2014, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Pakistan-releases-Indian-fishermen-Sri-Lanka-to-follow/articleshow/35605752.cms>

¹⁷ "EAC inks Sh277 million deal with EU on maritime security", *The Star*, May 10, 2014, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-166598/eac-inks-sh277-million-deal-eu-maritime-security>

¹⁸ "Heroin worth \$22.5mn seized in Arabian Sea", *Muscat Daily*, May 29, 2014, at <http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/Heroin-worth-22.5mn-seized-in-Arabian-Sea-36uo>

the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States. The RIMPAC 2014 is the 24th exercise since the inception of RIMPAC in 1971.¹⁹

India and Myanmar sign an agreement on border cooperation

India and Myanmar signed a pact on border cooperation, affirming to exchange information about insurgents; smuggling of arms and drugs; and human and wildlife trafficking. The agreement was signed by

Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Indian ambassador to Myanmar, and Maj Gen Kyaw Nyunt, the deputy defence minister of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. As per the agreement, both the countries will conduct coordinated patrols on their respective ends of the international border and maritime boundary, taking necessary steps to prevent illegal cross-border activities. The MoU between India and Myanmar is aimed at facilitating enhanced cooperation between the security agencies of both the countries, maintaining peace, stability and security along their maritime border and international territory.²⁰

¹⁹ "China to participate in RIMPAC for first time", *MarineLink.com*, May 6, 2014, at <http://www.marinelink.com/news/participate-rimpac-china368454.aspx>

²⁰ "India, Myanmar sign pact to share information on insurgents", *The Times of India*, May 11, 2014, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-Myanmar-sign-pact-to-share-information-on-insurgents/articleshow/34944785.cms>

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Russian Ambassador praises Bangladesh Nuclear Power Plant construction

The Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh said that the idea of solving the energy problem in Bangladesh through nuclear power generation is 'broadly accepted' by almost all major political stakeholders in the country. He also expressed his displeasure regarding the opposition of the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) which, in his view, is quite safe. He asserted that the design of the NPP under construction is much more sustainable than Fukushima. The design is sustainable in both Tsunami and earthquake. He cited the statement of Bangladesh's Prime Minister in favour of the nuclear plant as the proof of his opinion. He assured that the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission takes greatest care about the safety aspects of the NPP.²¹

One hundred thousand flats to be constructed by Malaysia in Dhaka

Bangladesh's Minister for Housing and Public Works Mosharraf Hossain said that his country's government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Malaysian government to construct one hundred thousand apartments in Dhaka city. The government will try to complete the project within the next four years. The National Housing Authority, Bangladesh is implementing this project for the people of low and middle income groups. Latest technology will be used by Malaysia to equip the high-rises with earthquake resistance and other safety measures. Proper

modern civic facilities like gas and electricity connection, sports and educational institutions will also be included in the projects.²²

Bangladesh signs MoU to lease excess bandwidth to India

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL) and India's Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) which initially provides for Bangladesh to export 10gbps (Gigabits per second) internet bandwidth to India. With signing of this document, Bangladesh has moved towards leasing a part of its additional internet bandwidth to the northeastern states of India. Internet users of eight Indian states Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Shillong will be benefitted by this bandwidth. The BSNL, within a year, is expected to import 40gbps internet bandwidth. Initially, the deal would be for three years that might be extended further.²³

PSA International and JN Port carry out the biggest FDI agreement

Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals Pvt. Ltd. (BMCT), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PSA Bharat Investments Pte Ltd. (a unit of PSA International Pte Ltd.), signed an agreement with Jawaharlal Nehru Port to set up a container loading facility of Rs. 7,915 crore, of which the FDI element is Rs. 3,160 crore. This is known to be the biggest single Foreign Direct

²¹ "BD energy crisis solution thru' nuke power: Russia", *Daily Sun*, May 6, 2014, at http://www.daily-sun.com/index.php?view=details&archieiv=yes&arch_date=06-05-2014&type=daily-sun-news&pub_no=846&cat_id=1&menu_id=0&news_type_id=3&index=0

²² "Malaysia to build one lakh flats in Dhaka: Mosharraf", *Daily Sun*, May 11, 2014, at http://www.daily-sun.com/details_yes_11-05-2014_Malaysia-to-build-one-lakh-flats-in-Dhaka:-Mosharraf_851_1_3_1_1.html

²³ "Bangladesh to lease bandwidth to India", *Daily Sun*, May 14, 2014, at http://www.daily-sun.com/details_yes_14-05-2014_Bangladesh-to-lease-bandwidth-to-India_854_1_3_1_1.html

Investment (FDI) agreement. The group chief executive officer at PSA International, Tan Chong Meng said that the PSA and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust will work together to develop a very important terminal in India which would cater to the rising need for container handling capacity and facilitate maritime trade in India. In February, PSA quoted the highest revenue share price bid of 37.79 per cent, emerging as the highest bidder for the project. This is the fifth project of PSA International at India's container port, which is a part of its expansion plans. The project outlines the establishment of a new terminal which will be able to load 4.8 million containers in a year, making it India's biggest single container terminal, having a quay length of 2 km with a water depth of 16.5 metres capable of handling large container ships. As per a 10-yr plan of the shipping ministry, the port is required to handle 11 million containers by 2016 and 23 million containers by 2020.²⁴

India wanting to strengthen maritime connectivity with ASEAN

At an international conference on cross-border connectivity, Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), stated that the Ministry of Shipping is looking forward to establish a Joint Working Group on Maritime Connectivity with the ASEAN countries. For establishing strong trade relations with ASEAN, India called for an 'open sky policy' on a quid pro quo basis. In this regard, a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on services and investments will be prepared later this year with the ASEAN. Expressing concern over the increasing maritime territorial dispute between China and Vietnam, India stressed the need for strengthening maritime security

through cooperation and contended that freedom of navigation in the South China Sea should not be hampered.²⁵

Fourth P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft for India

The Fourth P-8I Patrol aircraft has been delivered by Boeing, which departed from Seattle and arrived in INS Rajali at the Naval Air Station on May 21, 2014. Joining the other three p-8Is, the fourth P-8I is the Navy variant of the P-8A Poseidon developed for the US Navy. The P-8I, based on the company's Next Generation 737 product system, comprises of unique design features and India-built subsystems that are modified as per the maritime patrol requirements of the Indian Navy. Features of the aircraft include open system architecture; advanced sensor and display technologies; and a worldwide base of suppliers, parts and support equipment.²⁶

One-stop visa facility offered to Indonesians by UK, Australia and New Zealand

As part of a much wider program of cooperation, a new joint visa application center in Jakarta have been established by the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand to improve applications service and provide a more convenient procedure to Indonesian citizens. The Five Country Conference (FCC), including the three countries, the United States and Canada; a consortium of government immigration agencies and border security, is organised twice a year to discuss immigration matters and customer services improvement. It is because of the growth trends found in Indonesia that this arrangement has been made among the three Commonwealth countries to be more cost-efficient.

²⁴ "PSA-JN Port ink biggest shipping FDI agreement", *livemint.com*, May 6, 2014, at <http://www.livemint.com/Companies/dN6BT2lrOOSjrQcBWwvFJ/PSAJN-Port-ink-biggest-shipping-FDI-agreement.html>

²⁵ "India calls for strong maritime connectivity with Association of Southeast Asian Nations", *ndtv*, May 12, 2014, at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/india-calls-for-strong-maritime-connectivity-with-association-of-southeast-asian-nations-522870>

²⁶ "Boeing delivers fourth P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft to India", *seapowermagazine.org*, May 23, 2014, at <http://www.seapowermagazine.org/stories/20140523-p8i.html>

With the growth of successful applications by Indonesian citizens the visa application centre will see an introduction of a number of premium services.²⁷

Indonesian Government plans for cruise dock off Komodo Island

Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara's provincial tourism agency plans to open the Komodo Island to cruise ships and therefore it has appropriated US\$5.26 million to build a floating aluminum dock for cruise ships off the Island. The dock to be completed in 2015 would be built to last for 25 years. The project would make the visit of the Komodo National Park easier in congruence with other efforts for the same. Komodo and some nearby islands that are home to rare Komodo dragon are increasingly popular among tourists but difficult to access. The new plan hopes to solve the problem²⁸

Iranian port may be funded by India

For the operation of a multi-purpose terminal at the port of Chabahar, the southernmost city of Iran, located on the Gulf of Oman, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Kandla Port Trust have come in agreement with Port and Maritime Operation of Iran. As per the revenue-share agreement which is for a minimum of 20 years, the collaboration took place to form a Special Purpose Vehicle to operate the terminal at Chabahar. In order to operate Chabahar, which has been of strategic interest to India for many decades, the two ports are in the process of asking for financial assistance from the External Affairs Ministry through a one-time capital grant and an annual capital grant, to make the project sustainable which has been estimated to cost around US\$100 million. Due to the strategic

location of Chabahar near the landlocked countries of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, India would benefit from having access to these countries while increasing its geopolitical network.²⁹

Madagascar & Seychelles join hands to work for tourism

Madagascar and Seychelles will work together for development of tourism in the Indian Ocean Region. Both the states are active members in the Indian Ocean Vanilla Islands Regional Organization, and they want to see the consolidation and development of the tourism industry in the region. Madagascar has been welcomed back in the Community of Nations after the restoration of democracy in December 2014. The door for tourism representatives of the two islands to develop twin-center packages with Madagascar and Seychelles will be opened with the launch of flights from Madagascar to Seychelles. Air Madagascar is currently working towards finalising such plans.³⁰

Madagascar seeks foreign investment for development

Hery Rajaonarimampianina, the President of Madagascar, said that his country would welcome in investors to develop its private sector as it will bring development and create jobs in the country. Mr Rajaonarimampianina was speaking at a gathering in Johannesburg before attending South Africa's President Jacob Zuma's inauguration. The country has returned to democracy recently; and it is trying to depart from political crisis and 50 years of poverty. The current government in Madagascar has been democratically elected in December 2013 after a coup in 2009. More than 90 per cent of the population in Madagascar earns

²⁷ "Australia, New Zealand and UK offer Indonesians one-stop visa facility", *Jakarta Globe*, May 14, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/australia-new-zealand-uk-offer-indonesians-one-stop-visa-facility/>

²⁸ "Govt plans to open Komodo to cruise ships", *Jakarta Globe*, May 16, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/govt-plans-open-komodo-cruise-ships/>

²⁹ "Govt may fund strategically important Iranian port", *Business Standard*, May 30, 2014, at http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-may-fund-strategically-important-iranian-port-114052901402_1.html

³⁰ "Madagascar & Seychelles will cooperate with joint tourism actions", *eTN*, May 18, 2014, at <http://www.eturbonews.com/45917/madagascar-seychelles-will-cooperate-joint-tourism-actions>

less than US\$2 a day. The country needs to reinforce democracy, strengthen good governance and the rule of law. It will require outside investment for all these. Therefore, the current president is seeking investment in the fledgling mining sector, gas, oil, gold, uranium and precious stones. Renewable energy, tourism and especially ecotourism are other likely sectors for investment.³¹

Malaysian company to develop US\$3.5 billion resort on Indonesia's Bintan Island

Landmarks, a Malaysian property developer, have plans to develop a water resort city in Indonesia's Bintan Island. The company intends to invest up to US\$3.5 billion in the island over 10 to 12 years. It, through its unit Bintan Treasure Bay in Singapore, plans to develop 338 hectares of land in Bintan into an integrated facility that will provide leisure facilities, residential, cultural and commercial real estate. The resort will be supported by international standards facilities. Landmarks aims to make the resort region's iconic premier waterfront resort city in Southeast Asia. It is also expected to stimulate employment and sustainable tourism in Bintan, and encourage consistent appreciation on local real estate values. The company also aims to kick off the first phase of the project in the last quarter of 2014. It will develop 90 hectares of land into various resort facilities with an investment of about US\$650 million during this phase. The project is strategically situated near the existing Bandar Bintan Telani ferry terminal. There are plans for a transport hub catering to seaplanes, leisure boats, ferries and cruise ships including an international airport in Bintan by 2015.³²

UAE to collaborate in the development of Grand Mosque and higher education in Malaysia

Malaysia will be assisted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the construction of the Bandar Malaysia Grand Mosque and Islamic Education Centre in Sungai Besi near Kuala Lumpur. The funds will be provided by the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments (AWQAF) of the UAE. An agreement for the redevelopment of the 200 hectare project will be signed between the AWQAF and 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), a government owned master developer. In the past, this site used to be the base for the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). The two countries also plan to cooperate in higher education and scientific research through the exchange of academic staff, scholarships for further education and collaboration between institutions of higher learning.³³

A 4.5 per cent fall in Mauritius' tourism earnings in the first quarter of 2014

Earnings from tourism in Mauritius in the first quarter of 2014 dropped by 4.5 per cent compared with the same period in the year 2013. The reason for the drop is decrease in the number of visitors to the Island. Since the global economic recession began, long-haul luxury destinations have suffered a downturn. Tourism is a key source of income for the island's US\$10 billion economy. Visitor arrivals in the first quarter of the current year fell by 1 per cent. However, the expected numbers of tourists are expected to rise by 3.7 per cent for the full year. Visitors from Europe, the biggest tourist source, slumped by 4.4 per cent from January-

³¹ "Madagascar tries to lure in investors", *AFK Insider*, May 24, 2014, at <http://afkinsider.com/57577/madagascar-tries-lure-investors/>

³² "Malaysia's Landmarks to invest \$3.5b in 'Treasure Bay' resort on Indonesia's Bintan Island", *Jakarta Globe*, May 11, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/business/malysias-landmarks-invest-3-5b-treasure-bay-resort-indonesias-bintan-island/>

³³ "UAE assistance for Bandar Malaysia religious infrastructure", *The Star Online*, May 18, 2014, at <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2014/05/18/UAE-assistance-for-Bandar-Malaysia-religious-infrastructure/>

March 2014. But the ray of hope is a 16 per cent rise in tourist arrival in April 2014 as compared to the same month in 2013. The spike is driven by tourists arriving from Europe and Asia.³⁴

Logistical Base construction at the Mozambican Pemba Port will begin from January 2015

The logistical base at the Pemba Port in the province of Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique is due to begin in January 2015. The Rovuma Basin hydrocarbon industry will be supported by the facility. Huge amounts of natural gas have been discovered in the basin. About US\$150 million will be spent in the first phase of the construction. This phase includes building of the logistical base and installations for the production and assembly of the subsea equipment used in the hydrocarbon industry. The assessment of the environmental impact of the development is currently underway. Beginning in January 2015, the project is expected to be completed by 2016. A huge liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant to process natural gas will also be built at Palma nearby. The first shipment from the dedicated port at Palma is expected at no time before 2018.³⁵

Seychelles to host IORA Tourism and Travel Mart in September 2014

Seychelles will be hosting the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Tourism and Travel Mart from September 19-21, 2014. The aim is to bring together stakeholders and policy makers in the tourism and travel industry. The Mart is also an opportunity to bring together the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) country tourism ministers. This would make the

occasion a perfect platform to discuss expanding and strengthening tourism industry in the region. The IORA is a 20 Nation group pushing for Regional Cooperation. An appeal by Seychelles in 2013 to the IORA and the Indian Ocean Vanilla Islands to cooperate together prompted the secretary IORA to confirm that the tourism ministers of its member states would come together in the Mart in 2014. This will not only open new avenues but it will also strengthen and solidify the Vanilla Islands Organisation in its quest to generate more visibility and tourism growth.³⁶

Seychelles delegation visited the Indian pharmaceutical expo 2014

A three member delegation from the Seychelles' Ministry of Health visited the Iphex 2014 in Mumbai, India. The three-day exhibition brought together drugs, pharmaceutical and healthcare industry under one roof. Iphex that received delegates from 115 countries this year, is billed as the largest showcase of Indian pharmaceutical products and technologies. This event was the second such exhibition organised by the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) of India set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The event was also co-located with PHARMA Pro & Pack Expo 2014, a show for pharmaceutical machinery manufacturers. Iphex offers pharmaceutical industry majors from India and all across the world to connect and do business.³⁷

Seychelles-EU strategic fisheries accord

According to a new agreement, Seychelles flagged vessels will be allowed to continue their operations in Mayotte waters, regardless of the transition of this

³⁴ "Mauritius says tourism revenues fall 4.5 pct year/year in Q1", *Reuters*, May 20, 2014, at <http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFKBN0E015U20140520>

³⁵ "Construction of Pemba Port Logistical Base to begin 2015", *All Africa*, May 7, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405090939.html>

³⁶ "Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Tourism and Travel Mart to be held in Seychelles", *Travel Video News*, May 14, 2014, at <http://www.travelvideo.tv/news/seychelles/05-14-2014/indian-ocean-rim-association-iora-tourism-and-travel-mart-to-be-held-in-seychelles>

³⁷ "Seychelles at India's pharmaceutical showcase", *Seychelles Nation*, May 23, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241771>

Indian Ocean Island to the European Region as of January 1, 2014. The agreement was initiated in a meeting of the EU and Seychelles delegation in November 2013. It has finally been signed in Brussels, Belgium by Seychelles' ambassador to the EU, Vivianne Fock-Tave. Eight tuna purse seine vessels, as per the agreement, will be allowed to operate in the waters of Mayotte under the jurisdiction of the EU for the next six years against the payment of licence and catch fees. This is to be noted that the European Union for the first time has allowed tuna fishing for the vessels of a non-EU member country in its waters on payment of fee.³⁸

Strong mutual cooperation between China and Sri Lanka

China advocated that Sri Lanka, being an important partner in the "Maritime Silk Route" project and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, should collaborate in working towards the development of maritime economy, port construction and maritime security. Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa met in Shanghai during a summit on Asian security, wherein Xi Jinping pledged to maintain high-level exchanges and expand cultural links with Sri Lanka. In response to this, Rajapaksa

affirmed to facilitate maritime cooperation with China, hold negotiations regarding the China-Sri Lanka free trade area (FTA), work towards infrastructure building, internet security cooperation and also strengthen personal ties. China's investment in Sri Lanka is in terms of pro-active participation in projects regarding industrial parks, economic zones, power, highways and railways.³⁹

China's billion-dollar funding for Maritime Silk Route project

The Maritime Silk Route project, aimed towards strengthening maritime connectivity between China and Southeast Asian & Indian Ocean littoral states, is funded by China. A US\$1.6 billion deal supported by the China Development Bank (CBD) and the China-Africa Development Fund was signed in the coastal region of Fujian. The project is aimed towards building ports and infrastructure as well as establishing free trade zones with the strategically located countries of Southeast Asia and Indian Ocean Region, including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. China is involved in the port projects of Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka and Chittagong in Bangladesh. The Maritime Silk Route initiative is of utmost importance to President Xi Jinping's government.⁴⁰

³⁸ "Seychelles signs strategic fisheries access accord", *Seychelles Nation*, May 28, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241819>

³⁹ "China says Lanka important partner", *Colombo Gazette*, May 22, 2014, at <http://colombogazette.com/2014/05/22/china-says-lanka-important-partner/>

⁴⁰ "China: Billion dollar-fund for maritime silk road", *The Hindu*, May 20, 2014, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/china-billion-dollarfund-for-maritime-silk-road/article6026755.ece>

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS/ DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Reports about dangerous sinkholes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands field station of the India's Geological Survey has been closed while sinkholes have sprung up all over as an aftermath of the Asian tsunami in 2004. The administration in the islands seems to be clueless about these holes in the ground that can sometimes lead to other geological events like hot springs, water spouts, natural gas emissions or even cracks in the subterranean magma chambers. Sinkholes have appeared all over Nicobar. Such reports have not been officially documented. According to some reports, Car Nicobar is full of sinkholes after the tsunami. The deputy commissioner of Nicobar Sakshi Mittal said that the phenomenon has not been brought to her notice yet. Lieutenant-Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Lt Gen A K Singh also said that the administration has no idea about the sinkholes and it would like to know about them from the researchers.⁴¹

Climate change adaptation needs discussed by Indian Ocean Rim experts

A meeting of experts from countries around the Indian Ocean Rim was held in Chennai, India to discuss ways to improve their disaster resilience and management of future climate risk. The meeting, under the auspices of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), was the first such meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Climate Change Adaptation Programme officials to discuss the implications of future climate risk. The meeting, held recently at the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, was co-organised and supported by the Indian

Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) with the financial support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Approximately 40 delegates from government departments, universities, research organisations, non-governmental organisations and regional organisations, from the IORA and its observer countries attended the meeting. The meeting agreed on priority areas for research cooperation and also led to the establishment of a network (Community of Practice) to continue collaboration on priority areas like sharing of information and skills, and focus on research gaps to improve resilience across the Indian Ocean Rim.⁴²

India for stringent safety audits to prevent maritime disasters

During the visit to the South Naval Command headquarters, Kochi the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Robin K Dhawan said that stringent safety audits are required to be implemented and safety check on every single platform of the Navy has to be carried out. While addressing the naval personnel, Admiral Dhawan also stated that more than a dozen submarines, which constitute most of the country's fleet, have to be modernised. He felt the need for a strong and multi-talented naval force to be built in order to meet maritime challenges and to protect the country's maritime interest. As the focus of the world lies in the Indian Ocean Region, the interests of various countries are vested in the ports and other areas of Indian Ocean. The IOR is also essential for the Indian Navy from both operational and professional angles.⁴³

⁴¹ "Sinkholes opening up after Tsunami", *Jakarta Globe*, May 4, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/international/sinkholes-opening-tsunami/>

⁴² "Indian Ocean Rim countries discuss climate change adaptation needs", *Seychelles Nation*, May 19, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241721>

⁴³ "Navy chief assures strict safety audits in wake of submarine accidents", *aninews.in*, May 7, 2014, at <http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail2/story167453/navy-chief-assures-strict-safety-audits-in-wake-of-submarine-accidents.html>

Cargo handling capacity of India's Visakhapatnam port to be increased

With focus on infrastructure development, the cargo handling capacity of Visakhapatnam Port is said to be raised from 80 million tonnes to 120 million tonnes per annum, as stated by Vishakhapatnam Port Trust's (VPT's) new chairman MT Krishna Babu. The execution of projects worth around Rs 2,500 crore, in public-private partnership (PPP) will take place, making the Visakhapatnam port one of the top three ports in the country. Pollution control measures and effective mechanisation of cargo handling will be carried out on a weekly basis. As per the maritime agenda of the Government of India, Rs 10,000 crore is to be spent for several projects at the port by 2020.⁴⁴ Krishna Babu also assured that the new government will work towards the development of all minor and major ports as per the guidelines of the AP Reorganisation Bill.⁴⁵

India for a stable maritime environment within UNCLOS framework

India has affirmed to support a stable maritime environment, considering new approaches within the overall framework of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), facilitating international cooperation for the sustainable use of living resources of the high seas as well as mutually beneficial sharing of seabed resources located in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs while addressing the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in

Shanghai, welcomed Bangladesh and Qatar, the new members of the grouping. Khullar also stated that India recognises a sound maritime environment in Asia, including the right of maritime passage and unimpeded commerce in accordance with international law. He opined that there is scope for strong cooperation within the CICA to tackle challenges of terrorism, cyber-crime, piracy, drug trafficking and other insecurities as well as transnational organised crimes in the maritime domain. Alongside, CICA has its role to play in the development of a cooperative framework on the lines of mutual trust, mutual benefit and sovereign equality, as expressed by Mr Khullar. With a vision for new Asia of peace, stability and cooperation, India will work with all member states of the CICA.⁴⁶

Indonesia takes steps to make a green finance sector

Now, companies must comply with environmental friendly practices and standards to receive loans from the financial service institutions supervised under the Financial Services Authority (OJK), Indonesia. The financing authority has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Environment Ministry of Indonesia in this regards. The agreement is an extension of a 2010 program between the ministry and Bank Indonesia endorsing the efforts to prevent companies from damaging the environment. The capital market and non-banking sectors are also included in the framework of the new MoU. All financial companies supervised by the OJK will have to consult with the Environment Ministry to check their standing in the Corporate Environmental Performance Ratings.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ "Visakhapatnam port cargo handling capacity to be raised, says chairman MT Krishna Babu", *The Economic Times*, May 12, 2014, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-05-12/news/49795268_1_visakhapatnam-port-outer-harbour-general-cargo-berth

⁴⁵ "VPT to focus on infrastructure, curbing pollution", *The Times of India*, May 13, 2014, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/VPT-to-focus-on-infrastructure-curbing-pollution/articleshow/35040210.cms>

⁴⁶ "India for stable maritime environment in Asia", *Business Standard*, May 21, 2014, at http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-for-stable-maritime-environment-in-asia-114052101698_1.html

⁴⁷ "Indonesian finance sector takes steps to become green", *Jakarta Globe*, May 27, 2014, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/business/indonesian-finance-sector-takes-steps-become-green/>

Mombasa faces a risk of sinking

If Kenya does not act fast to mitigate the effects of climate change, some parts of Mombasa are at risk of sinking. Mombasa is the smallest Kenyan county that covers an area of 229.7 square kilometers excluding the 65 square kilometres of water mass. According to estimates, about 39 square kilometres of Mombasa is at risk. Estimates say that 17 per cent of Mombasa will be submerged with an increase of only two degree centigrade of temperature. The Kenyan government has plans to create platforms to mitigate the effects of global warming. A bill presented in the Kenyan parliament seeks to fight climate change by establishing a fund that will be under the National Treasury. It also seeks to establish a council to oversee the coordination of activities for the mitigation of climate change.⁴⁸

Madagascar faces potential 'ecological disaster' due to toads

An invasion of toxic Asian toads is threatening Madagascar's unique wildlife with an "ecological disaster" that could devastate the island's native species. These toads (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*) are thought to have arrived in Madagascar through shipping containers from their native home in Southeast Asia. According to the World Wildlife Fund, approximately 95 per cent of Madagascar's reptiles and 92 per cent of its mammals exist nowhere else on Earth. Researchers have warned that iconic Madagascan species such as the cat-like fossa, lemurs and endemic birds could be threatened as they are likely to eat the venomous toads. More than 50 species of endemic snakes are also in jeopardy. The potential catastrophe is not just restricted to Madagascar and has a high dispersal risk of these toads from Madagascar to other Indian Ocean islands

such as the Mascarene Islands, Comoros and Seychelles. The researchers have called for an urgent toad hunting programme to wipe them out before they take hold.⁴⁹

Sustainable firewood practices promoted by Mozambique

For the promotion of the sustainable use of firewood and charcoal, Mozambique has created associations in all its provinces. This step is a result of the government's approval of a strategy of sustainable use and conservation of biomass in 2013. The tree stock in Mozambique has extreme pressure on it as majority of the people use wood as fuel for cooking. Meeting people's energy requirements remains a challenge as it causes deforestation. Therefore, the government is promoting the use of improved ovens for charcoal production, adoption of electricity, liquefied natural gas and biomass to reduce pollution and environmental damage. The country has also adopted legal instruments to regulate sustainable production of biofuels.⁵⁰

South Africa tops carbon footprint chart in Africa

Due to its coal-intensive energy production, South Africa remains at the top of Carbon emissions in Africa, according to an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. If no action is taken to reduce the emissions, the average temperatures in South Africa will increase inland and along the coast by 6°C and 2°C respectively by the end of this century. However, the report noted that South Africa has the infrastructure and expertise to deal with the situation and lower its carbon emissions. The country can make remarkable advances in decreasing the negative impacts of fossil fuels through the implementation of renewable energy

⁴⁸ "Mombasa at risk of sinking under water", *The Star*, May 10, 2014, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-166550/mombasa-risk-sinking-under-water>

⁴⁹ "Toxic toads threaten 'ecological disaster'", *Sky News*, May 29, 2014, at <http://news.sky.com/story/1271502/toxic-toads-threaten-ecological-disaster>

⁵⁰ "Mozambique promotes sustainable firewood practices", *All Africa*, May 6, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405090588.html>

strategies. IHS Technology, a global information company, has rated South Africa as the world's most promising emerging market for photovoltaic solar and other renewable energy.⁵¹

Maritime capability against poaching at Addo Park in South Africa boosted

The Expansion of the Addo Elephant National Park in Eastern Cape, South Africa, has made the park grow from a purely land-based to a park with a maritime component. This has also brought some problems for the park management. Poaching in the Bird Island group as well as Black Rocks in Algoa Bay is an ever-present problem. Incursions by commercial and recreational fishermen to the protected maritime area controlled by Addo Park have pushed for a greater, more visible and active anti-poaching unit. Thanks to the initiative by the Addo Region honorary rangers that the region's security is not solely dependent at a 14-year-old vessel. They have handed over to the Addo maritime anti-poaching unit a Honda outboard engines fitted Gemini Waverider Pro. The Park management team has also made a list of priority items that would provide best

help in anti-poaching activities in the park and submitted it to the South Africa National Parks (SANParks) Addo Region honorary rangers.⁵²

China research vessel returns after 179 days exploration of the Indian Ocean

After finishing 179 days voyage exploring the Indian Ocean, Chinese research vessel Dayang Yihao (Ocean No. 1) returned to its base port in Qingdao City on May 24, 2014. On December 2, 2013 research team comprising of 133 members from 30 Chinese research institutions and universities left from the port city of Sanya in southern China's Hainan Province. International Seabed Authority (ISA) had given China the approval to reconnoiter a 10,000-square-km polymetallic sulphide ore deposit in an international seabed region in the southwestern part of the Indian Ocean. It was first such mission after receiving the approval. The researchers onboard the vessel collected 14 deep-drilling core samples from the sea bed for polymetallic sulphide research. Apart from that, the researchers also detected 11 new seafloor hydrothermal areas.⁵³

⁵¹ "South Africa has Africa's largest carbon footprint", *Africa Science News*, May 26, 2014, at http://www.africasciencenews.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1213:south-africa-has-africas-largest-carbon-footprint&catid=52:environment&Itemid=115

⁵² "Addo's maritime anti-poaching capability boosted", *Defence Web*, May 27, 2014, at http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34852:addos-maritime-anti-poaching-capability-boosted&catid=108:maritime-security&Itemid=233

⁵³ "China research vessel finishes Indian Ocean voyage", *People's Daily Online*, May 29, 2014, at <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0529/c90883-8734738.html>

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Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN Centre

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This newsletter, compiled by the IDSA covers the recent developments in the fields of maritime security, economic cooperation and environmental concerns/ disaster risk management in the various countries of the Indian Ocean region.



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