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# Indian Ocean Watch

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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 August was quite happening in the Indian Ocean Region. Reports claim that the Australian authorities wanted to send Sri Lankan asylum seekers back to India in lifeboats. Australia and the US finalised a 25-year marine agreement. The Kakadu Naval Exercise involving navies from various Asia-Pacific countries was also held in Australia. India's External Affairs Minister attended the heads of the diplomatic missions' conference in Vietnam in a bid to enhance India's role in the Southeast Asia. A minor altercation happened between Iran and the US in the Persian Gulf. A new strategic fuel storage facility is coming up at the port of Salalah in Oman. The US Navy held CARAT Exercise in Singapore. The UNHCR has recently released an extensive report on the people clandestinely crossing the seas in the region.

On the economic cooperation scene in the region, it was reported that Indonesia's Telkom plans to build 'Indonesia Global Gateway' with world class telecom operators. Indian Prime Minister has emphasised on the promotion of exports and port development in the country. Recently, a group of business and tourist representatives from Seychelles visited India to promote Seychelles as a tourism destination. Seychelles and South Africa prepare for their first Joint Commission. Seychelles has also invited Sri Lanka to access the African markets.

On the environmental and disaster risk management front, improved disaster resilience methods have been adopted by India for safeguarding fisher-folk in its Southern parts. A large wall project has been planned in collaboration with the Netherlands to defend Jakarta from flooding. Malaysia has introduced the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management. The third phase of the 'Mangroves for the Future', a regional initiative across the Indian Ocean, was launched in Seychelles recently. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria has concluded that mining could be the most likely reason for the Klerksdorp Earthquake in South Africa.

**Ruchita Beri**

**Editor**

## MARITIME SECURITY

### Australia wanted to send Sri Lankan asylum seekers back to India in lifeboats

Lifeboats were given to the Asylum seekers who were held on an Australian customs vessel for weeks and told to go back to India where they had started from. Most of the 157 people in the boat were Christian Tamils who told that they were fleeing from persecution in Sri Lanka. The asylum seekers being inexperienced in navigating or driving a boat were terrified of the prospect of being dumped in the ocean on lifeboats. The group that was picked up by Australian authorities in the end of June includes 50 children. Their lawyers say that they, during their detention for weeks in the Australian customs boat, were mostly locked in windowless rooms. Mr Scott Morrison, the Immigration Minister of Australia, claimed that the asylum seekers were mostly economic migrants and they could be returned to India under an agreement with its government even if they are not its citizens. This is to be noted that all the detainees were refused interviews with Indian consular officials in Australia and were instead detained.<sup>1</sup>

### Australia and the US finalise 25-year marine agreement

In a significant step forward towards the US 'rebalancing' policy, Australia and the US have signed a 25 year US-Australia Force Posture Agreement. The deal provides for more than doubling the number of US troops training with the Australians. It also commits for a substantial presence of US Marines at the military base near Darwin and a deployment of the American airmen in northern Australia. Currently, there are approximately 1,200 US Marines and Air Force

personnel in Australia training for "humanitarian and disaster relief missions". The Force Posture agreement raises this number to 2,500 in future.<sup>2</sup>

### Australia hosts the Kakadu Naval Exercise

The biennial naval exercise Kakadu was held in Australia from August 25, 2014 till September 12, 2014. The exercise sees the participation of navies from various countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The exercise headed by the Australians saw participation from 15 countries and their naval personnel that included Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu. The exercise involved a participation of 1,200 people, eight warships and 26 Navy and Air Force aircrafts from the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean region. The Australian city of Darwin was selected as the venue of the exercise that began with tactical warfare planning and cultural exchanges. During the exercise at sea, high-end warfare drills including naval gunfire, communications, boarding and air defence were held.<sup>3</sup>

### Indian example for China in settling maritime territorial disputes

A statement by Manila's department of foreign affairs has accused Beijing for the violation of norms by retrieving four reefs namely Mabini, Kannan, Calderon and Burgos in the disputed waters of Spratly islands. This has urged Philippines to strengthen its defence preparedness, asking China to settle the territorial dispute through arbitration by giving the example of India and Bangladesh in doing the same. The department's assistant

<sup>1</sup> "Australia 'offered asylum seekers lifeboats to go to India'", *Jakarta Globe*, August 4, 2014, at <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/international/australia-offered-asylum-seekers-lifeboats-go-india/>

<sup>2</sup> "U.S. signs 25-Year military pact with Australia", *Defense One*, August 12, 2014, at <http://www.defenseone.com/politics/2014/08/us-signs-25-year-military-pact-australia/91250/>

<sup>3</sup> "Major marine exercise begins in Darwin", *The Australian*, August 25, 2014, at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/major-marine-exercise-begins-in-darwin/story-fn3dxiwe-1227036301956>



secretary, Charles C Jose said that the reefs are part of Manila's exclusive economic zone. In response to China's expansion in Manila's territorial waters, Philippines has called upon the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), which is a creation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to settle maritime disputes. Referring to India and Bangladesh's success to resolve their territorial dispute in the Bay of Bengal through ITLOS, Jose stressed that China should settle the matter in the same manner. On rejection from the Chinese end for settling the dispute through arbitration, Jose said that China is demonstrating an assertive and sometimes aggressive behaviour. Other countries like Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia also have maritime territorial disputes with China. During a recent conference held in Hanoi, the foreign minister Pham Binh Minh raised the maritime territorial issue with China and sought India's intervention. This is to be noted that as per the "Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea", which is an agreement between China and ASEAN, the member countries are not allowed to occupy the reefs of others.<sup>4</sup>

#### **India's External Affairs Minister attends diplomatic missions' conference in Vietnam**

An Indian delegation led by India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the conference of the diplomatic heads of missions in Vietnam. India's ambassador to China in Vietnam was also present at the conference. The focus of the conference was on enhancing the role of India in a broader security framework. The ongoing maritime and territorial disputes between some ASEAN members and China have been a major concern, for which India has to play

a larger role in strengthening the security environment and act as a balancing power in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>5</sup>

#### **India and Japan strengthen their defence cooperation**

The Indian and Japanese governments want to build stronger security ties in the light of China's rising territorial ambitions and military advancement. India and Japan seek to enhance defence cooperation and are on the lookout to launch a security consultative framework involving foreign and defence ministers. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's five-day visit to Japan has been beneficial for both the countries as they are expected to engage in various bilateral cooperatives, with the signing of an agreement related to rare earth minerals; discussion on civil nuclear cooperation; and Japan's support in growing the infrastructure sector of India. Japanese officials stated that Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe have agreed to cooperate in ensuring a peaceful and stable maritime order in the Indian Ocean Region.<sup>6</sup> Joint maritime exercises and trilateral drills with the US will also take place on a regular basis, as stated by Modi and Abe. The MoU between the "two major maritime democracies in Asia" stresses on enhancing exchanges and cooperation in important fields of mutual benefit.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Urgent need of reform in boat safety system of Indonesia**

Analysts say, after a recent string of fatal boat accidents, that there is an urgent need of reform in the Indonesian maritime transportation system. There will be a push on the Joko Widodo-Jusuf Kalla government to make this issue a priority. Any further neglect of the highly needed reforms will only make the situation worse.

<sup>4</sup> "Follow India example, Manila tells China", *The Telegraph*, August 31, 2014, at [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140901/jsp/nation/story\\_18786859.jsp#.VCln0PmSyxN](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140901/jsp/nation/story_18786859.jsp#.VCln0PmSyxN)

<sup>5</sup> "India expected to play bigger security role in China's Backyard", *NDTV*, August 27, 2014, at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/india-expected-to-play-bigger-security-role-in-china-s-backyard-582547>

<sup>6</sup> "Japan, India may launch security consultative framework", *oneindia News*, August 30, 2014, at <http://news.oneindia.in/international/japan-india-may-launch-security-consultative-framework-1512391.html>

<sup>7</sup> "India, Japan set to intensify defence cooperation", *livemint.com*, August 30, 2014, at <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/vwzfXkU7UWrA7lohy9QM4J/India-Japan-sign-MoU-to-develop-Varanasi-into-smart-city.html>

The Indonesian authorities accept that most of the incidents occur due to boats carrying people over their capacity. The Indonesian Government is being blamed for the alarming number of preventable disasters across the Indonesian seas. Analysts feel that state policies on safety in water transportation Indonesia and their enforcement are far from sufficient to protect passengers. The boat operators also are unconcerned for the safety of their customers and the boat crews take safety precautions very lightly. It is also to be noted that the Indonesian government has never allocated a special budget to improve safety equipment on boats, nor are their employees trained regarding crucial, life-saving safety procedures.<sup>8</sup>

### **Indonesia's resource rich Natuna archipelago may be a cause of dispute in future**

The Indonesian Air Force plans to upgrade its Ranai airbase for accommodating attack helicopters and fighter jets. Ranai is the largest town in the country's remote and sparsely populated Natuna archipelago containing 157 mostly uninhabited islands off northwest coast of Borneo. People in the region fear that this area can be a flashpoint in future amidst territorial dispute escalating in the South China Sea. Foreign fishing trawlers almost routinely violate the waters of this fish-rich region. The East Natuna gas field lies just inside the Indonesian 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and is one of the largest untapped gas reserves in the world. If there is any quarrel over Natuna, the delicate strategic balance in the region and Indonesia's self-appointed position as an honest broker in the various territorial disputes in the region would be at stake. Although the Indonesian Foreign Ministry maintains that there is no problem with China regarding

the status of Natuna, the Indonesian armed forces chief, in April 2014, had objected to China's inclusion of parts of Natuna within the "Nine-Dash Line" claiming territory in the South China Sea. He also had announced to send more troops and develop an early warning system for Indonesia. However, currently, China and Indonesia do not officially contest the sovereignty on the islands and agree that they are part of Indonesia's Riau Province. Indonesia is also not in the group of countries that challenge Beijing's claims in the South China Sea.<sup>9</sup>

### **Minor altercation between Iran and US in the Persian Gulf**

An Iranian dhow was fired at by the US Coast Guard in the Persian Gulf on August 26, 2014. Officials at the US Coast Guard Cutter Monomoy, which regularly patrols international waters in the Gulf to enforce international maritime law, said that they had only fired a warning shot at the dhow. Spokesman Cmdr Kevin Stephens of the US Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said that this was an act of "self-defence", and blamed the Iranians for provoking it.<sup>10</sup> After the initial contact by the US Coast Guard the Iranian vessel stopped communicating, and when the Coast Guard deployed a small boat of investigators they saw one of the crew members pointing a machine gun towards the visiting party. However, Rear Adm John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, told the reporters that no one from either side was injured in the incident. In the time when Iran and US are trying to rebuilt diplomatic ties with each other, an escalation of the incident could have had repercussions on the Iranian nuclear talks with the P5+1, which are going to be held in Geneva from November 24, 2014.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "An urgent call for reform in Indonesian boat safety", *Jakarta Globe*, August 3, 2014, at <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/urgent-call-reform-indonesian-boat-safety/>

<sup>9</sup> "Remote, gas-rich islands on Indonesia's South China Sea frontline", *Jakarta Globe*, August 26, 2014, at <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/remote-gas-rich-islands-indonesias-south-china-sea-frontline/>

<sup>10</sup> "US vessel fires at an Iranian boat", *Middle East Confidential*, August 28, 2014, at <http://me-confidential.com/8485-iran-u-s-vessel-fires-at-an-iranian-boat.html>

<sup>11</sup> "Coast Guard cutter fires warning shot at Iranian sailboat in brief altercation", *Washington Post*, August 26, 2014, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2014/08/26/coast-guard-cutter-fires-warning-shot-at-iranian-sailboat-in-brief-altercation/#>

## Iran and Kenya sign sixth Joint Economic Cooperation

Kenya invited the Iranian government to invest and explore trade opportunities in its private sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on energy and oil, agriculture, transport and infrastructure, water, irrigation, housing and health. However, there are greater opportunities for investment in the energy sector due to the recent discovery of oil and gas reserves in the region. Kenya's Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed says that this bilateral cooperation will generate a variety of employment opportunities for the Kenyan people. She also stressed that there is a need to re-establish direct flight connectivity between Nairobi and Tehran to ensure smooth commercial exchanges. In the past, the balance of trade between the two countries favoured Iran. However, the current economic pact will assist in bridging this gap through increase in exports from Kenya to Iran. This has already been seen with the increase in the import of Kenyan tea by Iran from two million to over ten million kilograms over the last five years.<sup>12</sup>

## Iran, Oman Natural Gas Agreement

The Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between Iran and Oman in 2013 to accelerate the supply of natural gas has been finalised. Iran assures that it will export 20 million cubic meters of gas per day to Oman in the near future. However, as per the September 2013 agreement, Tehran and Muscat will need 2.5 to 3 years to build the required infrastructure for supplying Iranian gas to Oman. This includes the preparation of a tender for the feasibility study of the project to build a 260km long pipeline that will carry the Iranian gas supply. Hamid Reza Araq, managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), also said that in addition to the infrastructure requirements, other important economic assessments

of the contract and potential shipment routes are necessary to ensure a safe and smooth supply for the natural gas to Oman.<sup>13</sup>

## Iran has good investment environment, says Qatar

Qatar favours the expansion of the economic cooperation with Iran. Qatari firms see the Islamic Republic as a secure and conducive place for investment. Es'haq Jahangiri, the first vice president of Iran, ensures that Tehran is prepared to transfer its technological know-how to Doha, including the development of infrastructures as well as technical and engineering services. Earlier in July 2014, Iran and Qatar announced plans to establish a joint free economic zone in the southern Iranian province of Bushehr and its adjacent provinces. In addition to this, both the nations already share the giant South Pars gas field, which is estimated to contain large amounts of gas and condensate. According to both the nations, the extremists groups portray a wrong image of the Muslim world; but through the expansion of this economic cooperation, officials from both sides feel that such issues can be resolved more easily. Hence, a successful Tehran-Doha cooperation is important and beneficial for the Middle East region.<sup>14</sup>

## Eastern Sabah Security Zone officials focus on possible threats from tiny settlements

Aiming to eliminate the possible weak spots in the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (Esszone) of Malaysia, the security officials are now focusing on the tiny settlements scattered in the remote areas of Sabah's east coast. Security authorities feel that these settlements in remote coastal mangrove swamps and islands could be used by unwanted elements for hiding or as escape points. These areas are difficult for patrol and can only be under surveillance from air. The officials will also

<sup>12</sup> Kenya, Iran sign cooperation pact", *Capital FM*, August 20, 2014, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/2014/08/kenya-iran-sign-cooperation-pact/>

<sup>13</sup> "Iran to soon start supplying natural gas to Oman: Iran oil Minister", *Times of Oman*, August, 31, 2014, at <http://www.timesofoman.com/News/38868/Article-Iran-to-soon-start-supplying-natural-gas-to-Oman-Iran-oil-minister>

<sup>14</sup> "Iran welcomes investment by Qatari firms: Official", *Press TV*, August, 31, 2014, at <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/08/31/377175/iran-welcomes-qatar-firms-investments/>

determine if the settlements are legal. This is also suspected that some kind of illegal activity is undergoing in these areas as aerial surveillance has revealed some oil spill and boat movement. The government also plans to build new jetties and repair the older ones to allow patrol vessels to dock in the security zone.<sup>15</sup>

### **A new strategic fuel storage facility coming up at port of Salalah in Oman**

A Dubai-based group Mina Petroleum is developing a major strategic fuel storage facility at Salalah Port in Oman. The facility is likely to come on stream by the first half of 2015. The facility will initially serve only the naval vessels and later may expand its services to merchant vessels also. The United States Government has already awarded a contract to the company to secure fuel supply for its vessels calling at Salalah. The storage facility will have a capacity of 230,000 cubic metre. Mina Petroleum has invested US\$75 million in its construction. Salalah is well suited for placement of such strategic fuel storage facility due to its proximity to Red Sea and the fact that many east-west shipping lanes pass through the route.<sup>16</sup>

### **Top military delegation from Seychelles visits Sri Lanka**

Brigadier Leopold Payet, the Chief of Defence Forces of Seychelles, was on a four-day working visit to Sri Lanka. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Rosette, the deputy Chief of Staff and Lieutenant Colonel Simon Dine, the Commanding Officer of the Seychelles Coast Guard. The top military delegation visited the Colombo dock yard to see the progress of the work on patrol ship Andromache. The ship is undergoing an overhaul and the repairs in the machinery and the hull have already started. M T

Seychelles Paradise, a petroleum tanker from Seychelles, is also in the same dock yard for maintenance and refurbishing.<sup>17</sup>

### **Singapore Defence Minister meets his Indian Counterpart**

Singapore's Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen was in India on August 19, 2014 where he held talks with the Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley. They discussed the avenues of defence cooperation at both the bilateral and multilateral levels, including the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus and the Shangri-La Dialogue. In the honour of his counterpart, the Indian defence minister hosted a lunch which was attended by the three military services chiefs of India. Dr Hen also met India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Later in his interactions with the media, He said that both countries can co-operate in the area of maritime and cyber security. Another area of cooperation could be in field of defence technology. He also stressed that both the countries can play a "very positive role for regional stability" in the South China Sea, Straits of Malacca and Indian Ocean.<sup>18</sup>

### **United States Navy holds CARAT Exercise in Singapore**

United States Navy service members engaged in the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise and learned navigational skills from the Singaporean Navy deployed in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes in the Strait of Malacca. The Strait of Malacca is known for its heavy shipping traffic that requires special navigational skills. There is also added threats of piracy and bad weather conditions in the strait that can further make navigation challenging. As

<sup>15</sup> "Sabah security officials to assess threat on tiny settlements", *The Star Online*, August 19, 2014, at <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2014/08/19/Zooming-in-on-tiny-settlements-Sabah-security-officials-to-assess-threat/>

<sup>16</sup> "Major fuel storage facility launching in Oman port", *arabianSUPPLYCHAIN.com*, August 22, 2014, at <http://www.arabiansupplychain.com/article-10302-major-fuel-storage-facility-launching-in-oman-port/>

<sup>17</sup> "Top SPDF delegation on working visit to Sri Lanka", *Seychelles Nation*, August 13, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242657>

<sup>18</sup> "Singapore and India agree to enhanced defence partnership", *Channel News Asia*, August, 19, 2014, at <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/singapore-and-india-agree/1320350.html>



explained by Lt Lauryn Dempsey, Destroyer Squadron 7 spokeswoman, the heavy ship traffic in the Strait of Malacca presents “a challenging acoustic environment” for sonar operators, and weather can also disrupt operations. The CARAT exercise is being conducted by the US Navy in Singapore for past 20 years. United States Task Force 73 and Command Logistics Group Western Pacific, the logistics organisations that arm, fuel, feed and support the US’ 7th Fleet’s operations in the region are also based in Singapore.<sup>19</sup>

### **New adviser to the Sri Lankan President on Maritime and Naval Hub**

Admiral Jayanath Colombage of Sri Lanka has been appointed as the Advisor to the President on Maritime and Naval Hub. An expert in the field of maritime affairs, Admiral Colombage has been the Chairman of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation and Former Commander of the Navy. As an important step towards realising the “Mahinda Chinthana Policy Manifesto-Vision for the Future”, Sri Lanka anticipates being a regional Maritime Hub; and also aspires to be known as the “Wonder of Asia”. Admiral Colombage has been actively involved in pushing the island nation towards its vision of being a Maritime and Naval Hub. The knowledge and high-level professional expertise of Admiral Colombage will be very useful for Sri Lanka to become the “Wonder of Asia”.<sup>20</sup>

### **Thai tanker hijacked off coast of Malaysia by pirates**

The International Maritime Bureau’s (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre said that armed pirates hijacked a Thai tanker off Malaysia’s east coast near the resort island of Tioman in the South China Sea on August

28, 2014. The pirates then pumped out the cargo of lubricant oil into another vessel while the crew members of the tanker were locked in the engine room. The pirates escaped with the cargo, and the crew members were released unharmed. IMB has warned that in recent months there has been a spike in pirate attacks on small tankers. The pirates attack tankers for the cargo that they carry. In Southeast Asia, around ten such attacks have been reported since April 2014, according to Noel Choong, head of the piracy centre in Kuala Lumpur.<sup>21</sup>

### **China rejects motion curbing its activities in South China**

China rejected a motion by the Philippines over the Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea at the meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers. The motion sought to curb China’s actions in the disputed waters. Philippines, at the recent ASEAN Regional Forum held in Myanmar, called for the resolution of the disputes in the region through arbitration within the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea framework. It also wanted a moratorium on Chinese activities increasing tensions in the region. Mr Wang Yi, China’s Foreign Minister, termed the motion as premature. He accused the Philippines for transgressing its own three-step plan by jumping directly to the third step. This is to note that the confrontations between China and the Philippines and Vietnam have flared in the past year despite China has agreed to talk for a code of conduct in the South China Sea.<sup>22</sup>

### **Japan’s support to Sri Lanka in providing patrol ships**

Sri Lanka will be able to enhance its maritime surveillance capabilities with the help of the Japanese

<sup>19</sup> “Navy wraps up CARAT exercise in Singapore”, *Stars and Stripes*, August 14, 2014, at, <http://www.stripes.com/news/navy-wraps-up-carat-exercise-in-singapore-1.298162>

<sup>20</sup> “Admiral Colombage the Presidential Adviser on Maritime and Naval Hub”, *Ministry of Defence and Urban Development (Sri Lanka)*, August 28, 2014, at [http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=Admiral\\_Colombage\\_the\\_Presidential\\_Adviser\\_on\\_Maritime\\_and\\_Naval\\_Hub\\_20140828\\_05](http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=Admiral_Colombage_the_Presidential_Adviser_on_Maritime_and_Naval_Hub_20140828_05)

<sup>21</sup> “Asian tanker hijacked”, *Trade Winds*, August 29, 2014, at, <http://www.tradewindsnews.com/piracy/343775/Asian-tanker-hijacked>

<sup>22</sup> “China rejects push at Asean to curb South China Sea activity”, *Jakarta Globe*, August 7, 2014, at <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/international/china-rejects-push-asean-curb-south-china-sea-activity/>

government in providing patrol ships to the island nation. Japan wants to help the country in improving sea lane security in the Indian Ocean Region. Talks will be held between officials from both the countries for deciding whether new ships are to be built by Japan for Sri Lanka or the island nation will be given patrol vessels of the Japan Coast Guard that are already in use. For purchasing ships, the Japanese government will most likely provide loans to Sri Lanka.<sup>23</sup>

### **UNHCR report estimates that 20,000 people risked lives crossing seas clandestinely**

The recently established Maritime Movements Monitoring Unit at UNHCR's (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Regional Office in Bangkok reported that in the first half of 2014 about 20,000 people risked their lives while crossing seas illegally or being trafficked in Southeast Asia. Some of these people were Rohingyas escaping persecution in Myanmar. The report focuses on movements of

refugees departing from the Bay of Bengal and moving across Southeast Asia region including Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Some refugees then have travelled to Australia. The report covers the full range of issues like the arduous journey of asylum seekers and refugees, the maltreatment suffered during the journey, the dreadful travel conditions and appalling conditions of their detention centres. The issue of Australia's Operation Sovereign Borders policy has also been taken up in the report. The data shows that 7,000 asylum seekers and refugees who have travelled by sea are at present held in detention facilities in the region. Over 5,000 are in Australia's mainland or offshore processing centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Countries like Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia that are not signatory to the refugee convention particularly lack formal legal frameworks for handling refugees. Refugees are often subject to gross violations as they lack legal status.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> "The Japanese government is to provide patrol ships to Sri Lanka", *Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation*, August 24, 2014, at <http://www.slbcl.lk/index.php/component/content/article/1-latest-news/21215-the-japanese-government-is-to-provide-patrol-ships-to-sri-lanka.html>

<sup>24</sup> "20,000 people risked their lives in sea crossings", *World Maritime News*, August 22, 2014, at, <http://worldmaritimenews.com/archives/134952/20000-people-risked-their-lives-in-sea-crossings/>

## ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Indonesia's Telkom plans to build 'Indonesia Global Gateway' with world class operators

State-owned telecommunication company PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom) has planned a mega project to make Indonesia as the Global Gateway to the telecom traffic that connects Europe and the United States in its West Coast area. For this, PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia International (Telin), a subsidiary of Telkom, focuses in international telecommunication business. It also serves for developing and managing business lines for Telkom abroad. Telin is also building up with other world class telecom operators the Southeast Asia-US consortium (SEA-US) for the construction of a submerged cable system. The SEA-US consortium agreement was signed in Jakarta on August 28, 2014. Telin also signed a memorandum of understanding with 12 Asian telecom companies and two European companies to form a consortium named as the Southeast Asia - Middle East - Western Europe 5 (SEA-ME-WE). This consortium will link up Southeast Asia and Europe through an international submarine cable system. "The Indonesia Global Gateway" (IGG) has been conceptualised as a global hub connecting the SEA-ME-WE and SEA-US networks.<sup>25</sup>

### Growing trade relations between India and Singapore

The Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Singaporean counterpart K Shanmugam discussed on strengthening bilateral ties and emphasised on enhancing air and maritime connectivity for coastal development. Singapore has affirmed to contribute to the investment sector for carrying out several infrastructure projects. Leaders from both the sides

instructed their officials to focus on projects involving various aspects of skill development, capacity building and revival of Indian cities. Both the nations strongly believe in building up strong economic and cultural ties, with the affirmation from the leadership of adopting a proactive and forward-looking approach to work towards establishing a closer and mutually beneficial partnership.<sup>26</sup>

### Indian Prime Minister emphasises on promotion of exports and port development

Emphasising on the need for the central and state governments to work together to boost the export sector, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the states will be allowed to establish their own Export Promotion Councils. The removal of obstructions in the path of SEZs was also seen as a need by him. He said that the states must not rely on the centre as a facilitator. The focus being the development of markets abroad, there should not be competition among the states, he expressed. In order to benefit from maximum gains and achieve high levels of export, the focus should be shifted from port development to port-led development and the states should work in collaboration with the centre. For this, the Indian government has come up with a project named "Sagarmala", aiming for the advancement of not just port development, but also port-led development. This includes ports, SEZs, rail, road, air and waterways connectivity. Highlighting the importance of the ports, Modi said that Indian Ocean is the pathway of carrying out the two-thirds of global trade and 50 per cent of container trade. He underlined that "ports can become gateways to India's prosperity".<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "Telkom joins consortium of world-class operators to build global networks for Indonesia", *Jakarta Globe*, August 29, 2014, at <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/special-report/building-indonesia-global-networks/>

<sup>26</sup> "India, Singapore decide to scale up trade ties", *ETAuto.com*, August 16, 2014, at <http://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/india-singapore-decide-to-scale-up-trade-ties/40315190>

<sup>27</sup> "Modi for impetus to exports, promotion councils for states", *The Times of India*, August 16, 2014, at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Modi-for-impetus-to-exports-promotion-councils-for-states/articleshow/40316588.cms>

### Kenya and Seychelles to enhance their valued partnership

Mr Uhuru Kenyatta, the Kenyan President, and President James Michel of Seychelles met at the sidelines of the US-Africa Summit on August 6, 2014. The two leaders discussed on a wide range of issues like maritime security, trade, tourism and fisheries. Both the leaders emphasised that their countries have strong historical bilateral links as neighbours with common borders. The two countries have a huge potential for cooperation and partnerships in Blue Economy. They also emphasised on the need to encourage the private sector to develop shipping lines so that trade can increase between the two neighbours. President Kenyatta felt that there is a huge scope for even better and stronger ties for mutual benefit between Kenya and Seychelles. He said that his country is keen for more cooperation in maritime security, agriculture, education and tourism. The two leaders also talked about creation of a joint commission that would orient new partnerships for cooperation.<sup>28</sup>

### Malaysia controversially looks into importing endangered fish species

Ahamad Sabki Mahmood, Director General, Fisheries Department of Malaysia, has stated that in case the sturgeon is found cultivable locally, his country would, with specific conditions, import the fish species. This is to be noted that sturgeon is listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites). Several species of sturgeons are known for their roe which is used to make caviar, a luxury delicacy. Felda Investment Corporation and MMC Hassed Co Ltd of South Korea were developing a sturgeon farming project that received objections from the Pahang National Park Tourism Operators who feared that it would affect

the local ecotourism as the foreign fish species could threaten the ecosystem and ultimately the livelihood of the people involved in this. The project was also criticised by Sahabat Alam Malaysia and the Malaysian Nature Society as they pointed out that the import of sturgeon was prohibited under the fisheries regulations act. Sabki also assured strong measures would be taken to prevent the fish from release into the wild. He further emphasised that the project was important to put Malaysia among the group of countries farming high-value fish.<sup>29</sup>

### Business and tourist representatives from Seychelles on a working visit to India

To help position their country as a tourism and holiday destination for the Indian travelers, a delegation of more than twenty representatives from tourism and business sectors in Seychelles visited India. Alain St Ange, the Tourism and Culture Minister of Seychelles, headed the delegation. Besides important meetings with the heads of various tourism and cultural organisations, a Seychelles roadshow was also planned where the stakeholders in the Indian tourism and trade were supposed to meet the Seychellois delegation. Minister St Ange told that for the Seychelles Tourism Board, it was the time to launch their promotion drive in India. He further said that Air Seychelles also had plans to restart direct flights to India. A group from Seychelles' National Cultural Troupe under the leadership of Marietta Matombe was also in India for entertaining the participants during the various functions and events related to the delegation's activities.<sup>30</sup>

### South Africa and Mozambique towards deeper trade and economic ties

South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry (dti) confirmed that the country is looking for closer trade

<sup>28</sup> "Kenya is a valued partner for Seychelles, says President Michel", *Seychelles Nation*, August 9, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242623>

<sup>29</sup> "Going against the tide", *The Star Online*, August 12, 2014, at <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Community/2014/08/12/Going-against-the-tide-Fisheries-Department-keen-on-farming-sturgeon-in-Pahang-despite-criticism/>

<sup>30</sup> "Seychelles' tourism and business delegation in India", *Seychelles Nation*, August 4, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242565>



relations with Mozambique, one of the seven fastest growing economies in the sub-Saharan Africa. Dr Julius Nyalunga, the Director for Export Promotion at the dti, said that South Africa cannot achieve its aspired economic growth without linking the economies of the two countries. This linking should be in the light of the fact that the southern African region is pursuing a mutually beneficial economic development agenda and therefore the countries in the region require to look for linking their economies with their neighbours and strengthen their mutual trade ties. Dr Nyalunga was speaking at the 50th Jubilee of the Feira Internacional de Maputo (FACIM) Fair, where 29 export ready small and medium South African companies sponsored by the dti were showcasing their products and services. According to him, economic diversification is the biggest challenge for the African countries. Antonio Makamo, the head of Business Linkage Services at the Centre for Promotion of Investment (CPI), Mozambique, told that strong mutually beneficial investment opportunities exist in his country in sectors like construction, mining and petroleum. He further said that Mozambicans lack infrastructure and know-how in oil sector. His country is looking towards the South African expertise for the development of these sectors. President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique also awarded South Africa with a diploma of merit to recognise the country's incessant contribution for FACIM.<sup>31</sup>

### **Preparations for first Seychelles-South Africa Joint Commission**

In preparation for the first joint commission between Seychelles and South Africa, the first meeting of their senior officials took place on August 14, 2014. The commission is to be established in accordance with the

General Cooperation Agreement initialed in Addis Ababa on January 30, 2007. Both the sides want to take forward their existing ties of friendship and cooperation and consolidate them through the establishment of a joint commission. The communiqué released about the meeting from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seychelles, stated that both sides wish to collaborate in a variety of sectors. Seychelles, during the meeting, reiterated the importance of the 'Blue Economy' and both the sides will cooperate to promote it during the upcoming Small Islands Developing States Summit to be held in Samoa. They also expressed their commitment to work together for the sustainable development of shared oceanic territory. The two sides also agreed to hold their first Joint Commission in South Africa in 2015.<sup>32</sup>

### **Seychelles Fisheries Authority launches new website, exhibits its achievements**

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) launched its new revamped website just before its 30th anniversary on August 31. It also hosted an exhibition titled 'The Past, Present and Future' to showcase its achievements since its establishment. The SFA is now not only known for the quality of its fisheries but also is assuming a leadership role in sustainable fishing practices in the region. Peter Sinon, Seychelles' Minister for Natural Resources, praised the SFA for its achievements on this occasion. One of the several achievements of the authority is the development of the fishing port infrastructure in the country. Seychelles aims for making its Port Victoria the most important tuna fishing port in the region. The minister also noted that it is important for the SFA to work alongside the Maritime Training Centre for fishermen's training that will prepare the human resources required in the fishing sector.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>31</sup> "SA fosters closer trade relations with Mozambique", *South African Government News Agency*, August 29, 2014, at <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-fosters-closer-trade-relations-mozambique>

<sup>32</sup> "South Africa and Seychelles gear up for first joint commission", *Seychelles Nation*, August 19, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242712>

<sup>33</sup> "SFA launches new website, showcases successes", *Seychelles Nation*, August 29, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242818>

### **Sri Lankan access to the African market through Seychelles and vice versa**

At the ‘Seychelles Trade and Investment Forum’, held this month, Sri Lanka has been invited by Seychelles to use it as a gateway to connect with the African continent for establishing trade and investment relationships. While the minister stressed on how Seychelles can be a stepping stone for Sri Lanka in entering the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the

Industry and Commerce Minister of Sri Lanka Rishad Bathiudeen asked Seychelles to utilise Sri Lanka’s free trade agreements with India and Pakistan to enter the South Asian market. Bathiudeen said that Sri Lanka has a strong market potential in Seychelles in trading gems, jewellery, furniture, ocean vessels, seafood and plastic products. Alongside, there is also a need for commercial diplomacy, bilateral trade and networking opportunities between both the nations.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> “Seychelles gateway to Africa: Minister”, *Daily Mirror*, August 28, 2014, at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/business/economy/51652-seychelles-gateway-to-africa-minister-.html>

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS/ DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

### Improved disaster resilience methods for safeguarding fisherfolk in Southern India

As part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), disaster risk reduction is a major concern for the maritime environment community. Efforts to build disaster resilience methods and improve the livelihood of the fisherfolk in Southern India are seen as successful examples of sustainable development. The fishing community in Southern India who are most vulnerable to disasters are being helped through multimedia outreach programmes and nationwide ocean forecasts. The Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has taken the initiative by uploading satellite telemetry inputs to its server, which are then interpreted and disseminated as advisories by NGOs like the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and Radio Monsoon. The INCOIS is known for providing information on early warning forecast of tsunamis and services like marine weather forecasts, wind speeds, eddies, and ocean state forecasts for the welfare and safety of fisherfolk and mariners. Along with a mobile application known as the “Fisher friend mobile application”, there has been provision for a radio broadcast in some locations, a 24-hour helpline support system and a GSM-based Public Address system for the benefit of fishermen. According to S Velvizhi, the officer in charge of the information education and communications division at the MSSRF, more than 25,000 fishers from 29 coastal districts covering 592 fishing villages in five states- Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Odisha, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are receiving the forecast services regularly. For the safety

and welfare of the fishing community, Radio Monsoon and the MSSRF multimedia outreach initiatives are the first such initiatives.<sup>35</sup>

### Great wall project planned to defend Jakarta from flooding

Urban planning experts have given mixed reactions for the giant sea wall project in North Jakarta. While the project is being praised as a necessary step to prevent flooding, it is also being questioned for the ambiguous benefits it promises to bring for the capital city's flood-prevention efforts. The US\$34 billion project has been planned to serve as a flood defense, especially in case of extremely unpredictable climate and weather conditions. The Government of Indonesia has set up the National Capital Integrated Coastal Development (NCICD) project in cooperation with the Netherlands. The goal of NCICD is to protect the capital from floods caused by high tides and also for the development of the coastal area. The project plans to build giant walls and create 17 artificial islands by reclaiming some land. It is also claimed that the project will help reduce flooding in urban areas and rivers. However, questions have been raised if building such a big project was necessary at this stage and also if it can be practically implemented as it will affect three large rivers that disembody into the gulf. Another concern is that Indonesia will have to be dependent on the Dutch government for its maintenance. Concerns have also been raised about the fate of thousands of fishermen and their families living in the area.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>35</sup> “New technology boosts fisherfolk security”, *Inter Service Press*, August 31, 2014, at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/08/new-technology-boosts-fisherfolk-security/>

<sup>36</sup> “Building Jakarta's great wall to prevent flooding”, *Jakarta Globe*, August 11, 2014, at <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/jakarta/building-jakartas-great-wall-prevent-flooding/>

### China donates equipment to strengthen fight against poaching in Kenya

Kenya has received anti-poaching equipment worth US\$20,000 from the Chinese Embassy in the country. The four wildlife conservancies in Kenya will use these equipment that include tents, global positioning systems (GPS), binoculars and telescopes. The donation was made through the East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) and Mara Conservation Fund (MCF). “We highly appreciate the assistance so far accorded by the Chinese Government towards strengthening our efforts to combat the scourge that threatens to wipe out our national heritage,” said Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Director William Kiprono. Liu Xianfa, the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, said that the donation is a part of the long-term commitment from Beijing for the fight against poaching in Kenya. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his visit of Kenya in May had expressed commitment for reduction of poaching in Africa. For the strengthening of the war against poaching, a China-Africa joint research centre will also be established in Nairobi.<sup>37</sup>

### Malaysia promotes the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

Malaysia, to ensure sufficient supply of seafood for everyone, is taking up a new Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) at its coasts. A course in EAFM developed by the Coral Triangle Consortium was imparted to 82 people who include 74 fisheries managers, two environmental executives, four conservationists from non-governmental organisations and two academic staff from Universiti Malaysia Sabah. The most recent training session, fourth in a series, was conducted from Aug 10-15, 2014. Dr Norasma Dacho, Coordinator and trainer for the training, said that the

course has improved fisheries management in local fishing grounds. He also said that the emphasis of the course primarily remains on the establishment of a fisheries management unit (FMU). The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries also endorses and promotes the new EAFM. The approach is inclusive in the sense that it involves people at all the levels of management process – the fishermen, managers, traders and the community.<sup>38</sup>

### Integrated coastal zone management being introduced in Sabah, Malaysia

To help stop the deterioration of Sabah’s marine and coastal resources in Malaysia, an integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) initiative is being introduced. The “Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle: Southeast Asia Project” is taking care of the issue with a focus on the Marudu Bay. The Bay is a part of the proposed Tun Mustapha Park that was approved by the state government in 2003. Beth Baikan, deputy team leader of the project, said that as the fish landings have declined due to traps and the mussel industry was deteriorating affecting the local livelihood, the project became an urgency. The ICZM is important to ensure food security in Sabah. The two-year project aspires to formulate a strong ICZM plan. Danish International Development Agency had introduced the ICZM concept in partnership with the state government in the 1990s. The plan is expected to improve the livelihood of the local community through sustainable management of coastal resources. The National Coordinating Committee of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security in Malaysia and the Asian Development Bank are partnering with each other to provide funds for the project as a regional technical assistance.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>37</sup> “China donates anti-poaching equipment to Kenya”, *Defence Web*, August 27, 2014, at [http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35998:china-donates-anti-poaching-equipment-to-kenya&catid=87:border-security&Itemid=188](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35998:china-donates-anti-poaching-equipment-to-kenya&catid=87:border-security&Itemid=188)

<sup>38</sup> “New approach to managing fisheries resources”, *The Star Online*, August 19, 2014, at <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Community/2014/08/19/New-approach-to-managing-fisheries-resources/>

<sup>39</sup> “Initiative underway to preserve Sabah’s marine resources”, *The Star Online*, August 25, 2014, at <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2014/08/25/Initiative-underway-to-preserve-Sabahs-marine-resources/>



### **The Sultanate of Oman hosts IOMOU Committee's 17th meet focused on sea safety**

Under the chairmanship of Said bin Hamdoun al Harthy, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications for Ports and Maritime Affairs, Muscat hosted the 17th meeting of the Indian Ocean's Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) Committee. The meeting opened on August 31, 2014. The broad theme of the meeting was on safety at sea and inspection. A wide range of issues like protection of the marine environment from pollution by ships, certification and licensing for sea workers and the investigation of maritime accidents and work onboardships were discussed under the theme of the meet. Other issues that were discussed are the latest developments in the field of inspection and national and international maritime laws.<sup>40</sup>

### **Seychelles launches the third phase of 'Mangroves for the Future' regional initiative**

With a new funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the third phase of the 'Mangroves for the Future' (MFF) regional initiative has been launched in Seychelles. The new phase will be built further on the achievements of the programme in the last 7 year. This phase will run from 2014-2018. The MFF has grown considerably in size and expanse since its launch in 2006 as a disaster response and reconstruction effort in six worst affected countries by the tsunami in 2004. The initiative currently has ten member countries - Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The third phase will focus on the development of community resilience in ecosystem-dependent peoples affected by natural disasters and climate change. This phase also emphasises on "soft governance", knowledge management, capacity

building and greater engagement with the private sector. The MFF also supports the legal protection of coastal habitats and local species.<sup>41</sup>

### **South Africa plans to protect environment from shale gas exploration**

Recently, US Department of Energy has estimated that South Africa has the eighth-largest shale gas reserves in the world at 390-trillion cubic feet. This has provided an opportunity for South Africa to explore for the production of its own fuel, and give a huge impetus to its economy. However, the committee on mineral resources in South Africa is concerned about the environmental impact of these explorations. Hence, to ensure that these explorations do not cause a severe threat to the South African environment or compromise research projects linked to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), Mineral Resources director-general Thibedi Ramontja has said that necessary steps are going to be taken to regulate the shale gas exploration process in the region. President Jacob Zuma is optimistic about this new venture, calling it a "radical transformation" of South Africa's energy sector.<sup>42</sup>

### **Mining might have caused the Klerksdrop Earthquake in South Africa**

On August 5, 2014, an earthquake measuring a magnitude of 5.5 on the South African local magnitude scale hit a mining town in Klerksdrop district in the North West Province of South Africa. According to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, the earthquake could have been a purely mining induced phenomenon. Andrzej Kijko, the director of the Natural Hazards Centre of the University of Pretoria claims that maximum magnitude of mining-induced quakes (entirely caused by human activity) is 3.5, and believes that it is the 80 years of continuous

<sup>40</sup> "Indian Ocean maritime meet opens today", *Oman Observer*, August 31, 2014, at, <http://main.omanobserver.om/indian-ocean-maritime-meet-opens-today/>

<sup>41</sup> "Mangroves for the Future (MFF) regional initiative", *Seychelles Nation*, August 22, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=242744>

<sup>42</sup> "SA to regulate, monitor shale gas exploration", *SouthAfrica.info*, August, 28, 2014, at <http://www.southafrica.info/about/sustainable/shale-gas-280814.htm#.VDtxvFfzg88>

mining in the Klerksdrop district which created stresses which could have activated the pre-existing geological faults leading to the event. The seismic data produced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) three days after the event also confirmed that the origin of the earthquake was 4.1 kilometres deep, indicating that it could indeed be mining related. Analysis of the structural damage that had occurred to the buildings also confirmed this theory.<sup>43</sup>

### **Aquatic species are threatened by dynamite fishing in Tanzania**

The members of the Beach Management Unit (BMWs) in Dar-es-Salaam say that dynamite fishing wastes almost 80 per cent of the large quantities of fish it kills as most of them are swept away uncollected. Beach

surveyors say that an irreparable destruction of the marine ecology also comes collaterally with this method of fishing. The BMWs have called for serious steps for combating this wasteful and destructive method of fishing. Dynamite fishing is rampant along the Dar-es-Salaam coastline. Large amount of fish killed after the dynamite ignition float on the surface and the perpetrators try to shovel them off while it takes only about 50 minutes for the floating fish to sink and get lost. The Head of Marine of Coastal East Africa's Global Initiative Mr Domingos Gove says that Tanzania should learn from Mozambique where strong measures have been implemented to ensure sustainable fishing in the Indian Ocean and the elimination of dynamite fishing is among the country's achievements.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> "Klerksdrop Earthquake: Mining or nature?", *SouthAfrica.info*, August, 25, 2014, at <http://www.southafrica.info/about/science/earthquake-250814.htm#.VDtrblfzg88>

<sup>44</sup> "Dynamite fishing poses threat to aquatic species", *Daily News Online*, August 31, 2014, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/35481-dynamite-fishing-poses-threat-to-aquatic-species>

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### Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN Centre

The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) is a non-partisan, autonomous body dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security. Its mission is to promote national and international security through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues.

The Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN Centre of IDSA focuses on understanding developments in the African and the Indian Ocean Region. The Centre also endeavours to analyse India's engagement with Latin American countries, particularly in forums such as the IBSA and BRICS. In addition, the Centre carries out research on the broader theme of India and the United Nations.

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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