



**Red Lantern**  
**ANALYTICA**

**INDIAN OCEAN  
REGION DIGEST**

*November* **2025**





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# ASIA'S ARMS RACE

**SOUTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR-SUBMARINE GAMBLE  
MAY TRIGGER UNDERWATER ARMS RACE IN ASIA**

**05 DEC 2025**

“

With the United States granting fuel supply approval under a bilateral nuclear pact, South Korea is pushing ahead to build nuclear-powered submarines seeking to join the select club of nations operating such vessels. Seoul argues the move is essential to counter growing submarine threats from its North-eastern neighbours. Analysts warn the development may provoke reactions from regional powers, especially China and Japan, potentially sparking a new underwater arms race in Asia

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

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# US STRIKES ON VENEZUELA

US CONDUCTS MULTIPLE STRIKES ON BOATS  
NEAR VENEZUELA

06 NOV 2025

“

Since early September 2025, the US has conducted at least six strikes on vessels off the coast of Venezuela, targeting boats allegedly transporting drugs. The operations reportedly killed 27 people in the initial attacks, while the sixth strike was the first to have confirmed survivors rescued by the US Navy. Venezuela's government condemned the strikes as illegal and equivalent to murder. The strikes have intensified tensions in the region and drawn international scrutiny.

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# OCEAN DATACENTRE

## GOOGLE PLANS AI DATA CENTRE ON REMOTE INDIAN OCEAN OUTPOST

06 NOV 2025

“

Google plans to establish a major AI data centre on Christmas Island, a small Australian territory in the Indian Ocean, following a cloud agreement with Australia’s defence department. The facility, currently in the planning phase, is expected to strengthen surveillance and monitoring of regional naval activity, including Chinese submarine movements. It may also feature a subsea cable link to Darwin to ensure fast and secure data transmission, supporting both commercial operations and national security interests in the Indian Ocean region.

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COASTAL SECURITY  
POLICE

# COASTAL SECURITY

**TWO-DAY COASTAL SECURITY EXERCISE 'SAGAR  
KAVACH' HELD**

**06-07 NOV 2025**

“

A large-scale coastal security exercise, Sagar Kavach, was conducted along Kerala, Mahe, and Lakshadweep to test multi-agency preparedness against seaborne threats. The drill involved the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, state marine police, fisheries, customs, and intelligence units. Agencies carried out coastal patrols, harbour defence checks, and coordinated response simulations to strengthen real-time communication, surveillance, and joint operational readiness across India's southwestern coastline.

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# SRI LANKA RECOVERS

SRI LANKA TO REGAIN ECONOMIC OUTPUT LOST IN  
CRISIS

07 NOV 2025

“

Sri Lanka has almost completed its debt restructuring and aims to restore economic output lost during the 2022 financial collapse, announced by Finance Minister Anura Kumara Dissanayake during the 2026 budget speech. The government expects to reduce debt-to-GDP from roughly 114 % to about 96 % this year, targeting 87 % by 2030. A primary budget surplus of 2.5 % of GDP is forecast, underlining a firm push for fiscal stability and economic recovery.

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# PIRATE ATTACK

## LNG TANKER EVADES PIRATE ATTACK OFF

### SOMALIA

### 07 NOV 2025

“

An LNG tanker transiting off Somalia successfully escaped a pirate attack after a fast-moving skiff attempted to approach and board the vessel. Maritime sources reported that the tanker increased speed and altered course, prompting the pirates to abandon the chase. The incident comes amid a surge in attacks in the region, raising concerns over the growing capabilities and confidence of Somali pirate groups and the heightened risks for commercial shipping in the western Indian Ocean.

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# US-INDIA MEET

**INDIAN NAVY CHIEF MEETS US MARINE & JOINT  
FORCES LEADERSHIP**

**12-17 NOV 2025**

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Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi visited the US to meet senior defence leaders from INDOPACOM, Pacific Fleet, and Marine Forces Pacific. Discussions focused on stronger maritime cooperation, enhanced interoperability, information sharing, and joint operations in the Indo-Pacific. The visit also highlighted collaboration in HADR, counter-piracy, and emerging domains such as unmanned systems, cyber, and space-based maritime operations.

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# MINE-HUNTING TECH

## DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS AUTONOMOUS UNDERWATER SYSTEM TO DETECT SEA MINES

15 NOV 2025

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a new set of Man-Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (MP-AUVs) developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory in Visakhapatnam. The compact AUVs, equipped with side-scan sonar, underwater cameras and deep-learning target recognition algorithms, can autonomously detect and classify sea mines. Trials in harbour and open sea were successful. The system is set for induction into the Indian Navy within months, enhancing India's mine-detection and maritime security capabilities.

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# MARITIME SEIZURE

## IRAN SEIZES TANKER CARRYING PETROCHEMICAL CARGO

15 NOV 2025

“

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) seized the Marshall-Islands-flagged tanker Talara in Gulf waters after a court ordered confiscation of its cargo. The vessel was carrying about 30,000 tonnes of petrochemical products from the UAE to Singapore. Iranian authorities stated the seizure targeted “unauthorised cargo” being exported illegally. The move highlights Tehran’s strict enforcement of trade regulations and adds tension to shipping routes in the Persian Gulf, a critical corridor for global energy trade.

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# TANKER RETURNED

IRAN RELEASES SEIZED TANKER 'TALARA' WITH  
CREW SAFE

19 NOV 2025

“

Iran released the Marshall Islands–flagged product tanker Talara along with its 21 crew members, five days after it was seized by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The vessel’s manager confirmed that the crew are safe and the tanker can resume operations. No allegations were made against the ship or its owners. The incident underscores the sensitivity of Gulf shipping routes and Iran’s enforcement of maritime regulations amid regional tensions.

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# TAZARA DEAL

**CHINA SIGNS \$1.4B DEAL TO REVAMP TAZARA  
RAILWAY (ZAMBIA-TANZANIA)**

**20 NOV 2025**

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China, Zambia and Tanzania signed a \$1.4 billion agreement to modernize the 1,860 km TAZARA rail line linking landlocked Zambia to the Indian Ocean via Tanzania. The upgrade includes tracks, stations, tunnels and bridges which aims to boost freight capacity from around 100,000 tons per year to 2.4 million tons, restoring the line's role as a key export corridor for copper and minerals.

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A photograph of the Indian Navy's first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), INS Mahe, sailing on the open sea. The vessel is white with a complex superstructure featuring various antennas and sensors. The sea is a deep blue, and the sky is clear with a few light clouds.

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# ASW COMMISSION

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS FIRST ASW CRAFT

BUILT BY COCHIN SHIPYARD

24 NOV 2025

“

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mahe, the first Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), built by Cochin Shipyard Limited. With over 80% indigenous content, the vessel is designed for detecting and neutralising submarines in coastal and shallow waters. It can also support patrol, search-and-rescue, and mine-laying missions. The commissioning marks a significant step toward strengthening India's coastal defence and advancing naval self-reliance.

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# TAIWAN TRANSIT

## NEW ZEALAND NAVY SHIP MAKES RARE TRANSIT THROUGH TAIWAN STRAIT

27 NOV 2025

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HMNZS Aotearoa, the largest vessel of the Royal New Zealand Navy, completed a rare transit through the Taiwan Strait on 5 November 2025, marking the first such passage since 2024. The journey from the South China Sea to Northeast Asia was conducted under international law. Chinese forces reportedly tracked the ship with warships and jets, but Aotearoa completed the passage safely, highlighting New Zealand's commitment to freedom of navigation in contested regional waters.

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# CYCLONE DITWAH

DEATH TOLL IN SRI LANKA RISES TO 153 AFTER  
CYCLONE DITWAH

29 NOV 2025

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Cyclone Ditwah has caused severe flooding and landslides in Sri Lanka, raising the death toll to 153, with 191 people still reported missing. The disaster has affected over half a million residents, displacing more than 78,000 into nearly 800 relief centres across the country. Rescue operations by the government and military continue, focusing on evacuations, relief distribution, and restoring essential services. The cyclone is considered the worst in Sri Lanka in a decade.

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# TAIWAN-JAPAN ALARM

TAIWAN AND JAPAN RAISE ALARM OVER SURGE IN  
CHINESE MARITIME ACTIVITY

05 DEC 2025

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Taiwan and Japan expressed serious concern after reports showed that China deployed more than 100 naval and coast guard vessels across East Asian waters this week — its largest maritime show of force to date. The deployments spanned from the Yellow Sea to disputed waters near the Senkaku Islands and into the Western Pacific. Officials in Taipei and Tokyo warned that such moves threaten regional stability and called on China to act with restraint

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# **EVERYTHING ANALYTICA**

