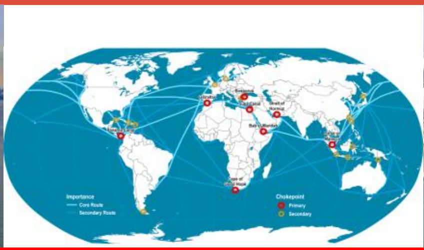
ASSOCIATION FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

104, Janki Niwas, 1st Floor, Dr.Moose Road
Opp. Gadkari Rangayatan, Talavpali,
Thane (West)-400 602, Mumbai, India.
Email- afged2019@gmail.com

Indian Maritime News Express

Date:16th July 26 Mumbai-India

International Maritime Trade & Transport



US projectile hit Chabahar maritime traffic center of Iran

Civilian watchtower used for fishermen rescue operations and maritime trade security, says Sistan and Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Affairs

The maritime traffic control center at Chabahar Port, southeastern Iran, was hit by US projectiles during overnight attacks, damaging its structure, the Ports and Maritime Affairs authority in Sistan and Baluchestan said on Wednesday.

The authority's public relations department said in a statement that the port's maritime traffic control center was struck following US attacks on Chabahar Port.

The maritime watchtower is a civilian facility mainly used for search and rescue operations for fishermen at sea, as well as for securing maritime trade, it said. No casualties were immediately reported in the statement.

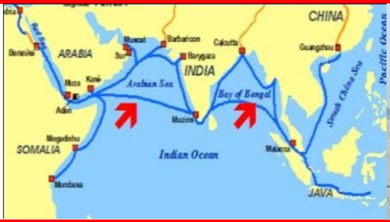
This came after Fars News Agency reported, citing provincial official earlier that a wheat storage silo and another site in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province were hit by US projectiles overnight.

Earlier Tuesday, US President Donald Trump said strikes on Iran would continue and intensify in the coming days, warning that the US would begin targeting the country's power plants and bridges next week unless Tehran returned to the negotiating table.

Tensions between the US and Iran have escalated in recent days over the Strait of Hormuz, with the two sides exchanging attacks despite a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding aimed at ending the conflict and reaching a lasting peace agreement.

Iran has also sent a letter to the UN accusing the US of violating the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.(Source: AA news Agency –Turkey)

Indian Shipping Industry



SAGARMALA

Tata to venture into shipbuilding with $1b investment

Indian conglomerate the Tata Group has unveiled plans to invest the nearly INR100 billion (US$1 billion) for the establishment of a shipbuilding venture in Kerala state.

The investment, which remains subject to the state government's approval, will also cover the establishment of ship maintenance facilities, Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan confirmed.

The chief minister added that discussions with Tata would be finalised within a month and that the government would provide the land that the company will need for the venture. However, no details have been provided on the exact location of the planned shipyard.

In early 2025, Tata subsidiary Artson Engineering had entered into a memorandum of understanding with Malabar Cements (MCL) regarding the establishment of facilities dedicated to the manufacture of passenger vessels of up to 100 tonnes displacement each.

The MOU between Artson and MCL called for the construction of the new facility on 2.8 hectares leased by MCL from Cochin Port in Kerala.(**Source: Baird)**

PORT OF NANSHA
GUANGZHOU PORT GROUP

Port of Nansha Leads South China Growth as Shippers Prioritize Lower-Risk Gateways

Indian missing after attack on ship off Oman coast is dead, family says

NEW DELHI, July 15 (Reuters) - An Indian national who went missing after an [attack on commercial vessel]() GFS Galaxy off the coast of Oman is dead, his father-in-law and the Indian consulate in Dubai said on Wednesday.

- Heramb Karmarkar, 30, was a marine engineer on the Cyprus-flagged container ship that was attacked off the coast of Oman on Sunday.
- The vessel, with 11 Indians in its 24-member crew, was struck by an "unidentified projectile", Cyprus authorities had said.
- Iran said it had struck the ship after it attempted to transit through an unauthorised route despite warnings to correct its course.
- Karmarkar's father-in-law, Vivek Tandon, told Reuters that the company operating the vessel had informed him of his son-in-law's death.
- The Indian consulate in Dubai is in touch with Karmarkar's family, and is coordinating with UAE authorities and the shipping company to assist them, the consulate said in a post on X.
- Karmarkar is the second Indian seafarer to be killed in the region in three days.
- Another Indian seafarer was killed on Tuesday after two vessels were attacked while transiting the Strait of Hormuz.
- New Delhi [lodged a strong protest]() with Iran after summoning its deputy ambassador over Tuesday's killing.
- Tehran says it has again closed the Strait of Hormuz after [hostilities with Washington reignited]() last week, but U.S. President Donald Trump says the waterway is open to all shipping traffic except that of Iran.(**Source:By Reuters)**

Indian Port Sector

Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster to come up in Porbandar

Govt Approves financial assistance to ₹1,570-crore Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Aims to Reduce Overseas Dependence Both projects receive in-principle approval under Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has accorded in-principle approval to two strategic maritime infrastructure projects, a Greenfield shipbuilding cluster in Porbandar district of Gujarat and a state-of-the-art ship repair facility at Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch, under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), marking a significant step in India's ambition to emerge as a global shipbuilding hub.

The two projects have been granted in-principle approval under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), a key component of the Government of India's strategy to strengthen indigenous shipbuilding and ship repair capabilities under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

The **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal** said, "Over the last 12 years, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India's maritime sector has undergone a historic transformation through landmark reforms, world-class infrastructure and unprecedented policy support. We have laid a strong foundation. The next phase is to unlock the full potential of India's maritime industry through minimal governance, enhanced competitiveness and greater efficiency so that the sector becomes a key driver of Viksit Bharat."

The approvals cover the establishment of Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster on the western coast and financial assistance for the development of one of the country's largest ship repair facilities. The Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster will be developed through the National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park–Gujarat (NSHIP-Gujarat), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) jointly promoted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and the Gujarat Maritime Board.

Spread across nearly 2,000 acres at Kuchhadi in Gujarat's Porbandar district, the integrated maritime manufacturing cluster will comprise modern shipyards, ancillary manufacturing units, common infrastructure and capability development centres. The project is designed to build large commercial vessels with an annual production capacity of 1.2 to 1.5 million gross tonnage (GT), significantly expanding India's domestic shipbuilding capacity while positioning Gujarat as a major hub for heavy-tonnage vessel construction.

The second project approved under the scheme is a ₹1,570-crore ship repair facility at Vadinar, to be jointly developed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) and Deendayal Port Authority (DPA). The project had earlier received approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on May 5, 2026, and has now secured in-principle approval under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme for 25% financial assistance on eligible capital infrastructure. The brownfield expansion will include a 650-metre jetty, two large floating dry docks, workshops and supporting marine infrastructure.

(source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Inland Waterways.)

India's Strong Message To Iran After Sailor's Death In Hormuz strait

According to the report, the tankers, Mombasa and Al Bahiyah, were struck while transiting the southern passage of the Strait of Hormuz.

India has summoned Iran's deputy chief of mission in New Delhi after an Indian crew member was killed while eight others, including six Indians, sustained injuries in an Iranian strike on the United Arab Emirates' two shipping tankers in the Strait of Hormuz.

The foreign ministry summoned Mohammad Javad Hosseini to lodge a 'strong protest' against the Iranian attacks on oil tankers passing through the critical waterway close to Oman. It remains unclear what was conveyed to the Iranian diplomat, but the meeting has concluded.

New Delhi: Iranian diplomats, including Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Mohammad Javad Hosseini, at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the Iranian mission was summoned by the Indian government over the recent attack on merchant vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the report, two tankers -- Mombasa and Al Bahiyah -- were struck while transiting the southern passage of the Strait through which one-fifth of the global oil passes in peacetime. The attack killed an Indian crew member aboard the Mombasa and injured eight others, including four seriously wounded. The injured comprise six Indian nationals and two Ukrainian nationals (Source: NDTV)

India’s Foreign Trade

India's Imports From China Reach $80 bn in First Half of 2026, Trade Deficit Widens

The deficit has expanded significantly over a year even as India remains concerned over the import-export basket.

New Delhi: Spurred by merchandise imports and rising prices of petroleum and related products, India's trade deficit with China widened very significantly in June 2026 to $15.3 billion – a 430% jump over a one year period, reports the *Hindu*. India's exports to China rose 27.5% to $5.6 billion over this time.

India's trade deficit for the entire year (2026-27), will exceed last year's $116 bn, said the *Hindu*, based on the current figure of $67 bn. In the first half of 2026, India's imports from China touched a record $79.41 billion. At the same time, India’s exports to China have also registered strong growth, up by 37.2% to $12.31 billion in the first half of 2026-27.

The nature of India's exports to China continues to raise concerns as much as the quantum of the trade deficit. Last year, NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam reportedly said, "If you are not able to sell much to China, it is pointless, because it’s an 18-trillion-dollar economy.”

While his remarks advocate greater trade engagement with China ("widening basket of goods"), India later made significant policy changes to allow Chinese-backed investments in the domestic market after a long freeze.

In an apparent response to the concerns expressed in India, Chinese embassy spokesperson Yu Jing on X on Wednesday, July 14, wrote on X: "We welcome more premium Indian products into Chinese market, which is the world's second-largest importer with 500 million middle-class consumers." She added that "China has never deliberately pursued a trade surplus with India".

She wrote that India's imports from China were worth $30.8 billion between April and June 2026, the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year.

On July 4, the *Hindu* reported India's ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami as saying that India would like to "be able to" export more to China. "This is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that," he reportedly said. Doraiswami stressed on India's desire for imports from China to be such that value-addition could take place domestically.

"If it is pure consumption goods, that becomes a little harder to sell as a reasonable mechanism [explanation] for the deficit," Doariswami reportedly said at the World Peace Forum, an annual foreign policy forum in Beijing.

India has for long sought to boost exports to China of more value-added items, moving away from raw material and has made slow progress towards intermediary good.

Yu wrote on the topic: "China has never deliberately pursued a trade surplus with India." She stressed that the electronic components, machinery and intermediate goods exported from China "support" India's manufacturing expansion, job creation and industrial upgradation. According to commerce ministry data, China was India's largest trading partner in 2025-26.

In March last year, the situation vis-a-vis trade with China had similar concerns over the basket of goods. Jitin Prasada, minister of state for commerce and industry had informed Lok Sabha that the goods were mainly raw materials, intermediate goods and capital goods such as active pharmaceutical ingredients, auto components, electronic parts and assemblies, mobile phone parts, "which are used for making finished products which are also exported out of India".

He referred in the response to 'Make in India', 'Make in India 2.0', 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, all geared to promote domestic manufacturing since 2014, apart from schemes aimed at easing goods transportation and logistics services.

The PLI scheme has had a very modest impact, attracting roughly Rs 1.6 lakh crore across 14 sectors as per the government's own data by November 2025, which rose to Rs 2.16 lakh crore as per data shared in February 2026. The scheme was launched in 2020. The government provides cumulative figures for these investments.

Apart from cost and scale factors, Indian experts have pointed to non-trade barriers and other restrictions limiting exports to China. Of late, the Indian government has stressed on quality concerns and standards as well. Earlier this year, China restricted Indian exports of rice and chilli. China has also moved to restrict exports of rare earth minerals.

India has also imposed anti-dumping duties on certain categories of Chinese imports, such as plastic machines, hoping to stave off the impact of China's low-cost production.

(Source: The Wire)

India-UK trade pact takes effect, promising tariff cuts and services boost

India and Britain's comprehensive trade pact took effect on Wednesday, cutting tariffs on thousands of goods and widening access for services firms and professionals in both markets.

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement gives Indian exporters immediate duty-free access to most British tariff lines, benefiting labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, and processed foods.

Britain gains wider access to one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, with phased tariff cuts and quotas for sectors such as automobiles, and openings in procurement, financial services, education, insurance and professional services.

The agreement opens "new avenues for trade, investment and innovation," said Piyush Goyal, India's trade minister, adding it would create opportunities for Indian businesses.

India exported $13.44 billion of goods to Britain and imported $11.68 billion in 2025-26, while bilateral services trade totalled $35.44 billion in 2024, with India running a services surplus of nearly $7.9 billion, Indian trade ministry data showed.

Britain will scrap duties immediately on 96.8% of tariff lines, covering 97.7% of trade value. India will remove duties at once on 64.1% of tariff lines and phase out tariffs on another 21%, while excluding sensitive products.

Indian officials expect gains in sectors where British tariffs had ranged from 4% to 20%. Marine exports, textiles, leather, footwear, gems and jewellery will see duties eliminated, helping Indian suppliers compete more effectively in the British market.

Britain is set to benefit from India's calibrated opening in automobiles and alcoholic beverages. Passenger vehicle imports will be subject to a phased quota system, with 37,000 completely built units allowed annually at preferential tariffs.

The pact also gives Indian suppliers access to Britain's government procurement market, estimated at about £90 billion, while India offers reciprocal opportunities worth around $114 billion.

Compiled through various sources for private circulation

AFGED
YOUR GATEWAY TO GLOBAL BUSINESS

Dr Sham Choughule.

Mobile 9969029226

(International Business, Logistics, and Maritime Transport)

Shamc2001@yahoo.co.in

Association for Global Economic Development-India

Corporate Office: A/111, Mittal Court, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.

16th July 2026