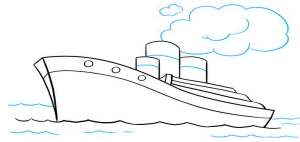




CMEC
Centre for Maritime Economy
and Connectivity
समुद्री अर्थव्यवस्था व संयोजन केंद्र



MARITIME BRIEFING

May 2025

From the Editorial Desk

CMEC is happy to share the latest maritime briefing covering developments in maritime connectivity, maritime trade & economy, and maritime technology, aspects related to India and the world.

Maritime Connectivity

- The most significant development in the month of May 2025 was the inauguration of the Vizhinjam International Deep-sea port by the Hon. Prime Minister of India on 02 May, 2025. Vizhinjam positions India as a new maritime gateway.
- In another significant development, Emirates Shipping and Wan Hai Lines announced the launch of new joint service, namely, India-East Mediterranean 2 (IM2) to expand port connectivity between India and the East Mediterranean.
- Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation amongst the BIMSTEC Member countries was signed on the occasion of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Maritime Economy

The French shipping giant CMA-CGM has re-flagged a container vessel in India. This move is also facilitated by the IFSCA, GIFT city in order to improve the Indian flagged tonnage.

India has given approval to the Russian insurers like Sberbank for marine cover to its ships, arriving at the Indian ports.

Maritime Technology and Sustainability

- The world's first e-methanol plant has begun its operations in Kasso, Denmark with a designed capacity of 53 million liters of e-methanol.
- Bharti Airtel has announced the successful landing of the 2Africa Pearls subsea cable in Mumbai. This landing brings over 100 Tbps of international capacity to India, significantly enhancing network resilience and supporting India's digital growth.
- Ministry of Coal, Government of India, conducted a stakeholder consultation on transporting coal through Rail-Sea-Rail mode, aimed at reduced congestions and considerable freight savings.
- IMO MEPC met in April 2025 and moved closer to the legally binding framework to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships globally, aiming for net-zero emissions by or around, i.e close to 2050. These measures, are set to be formally adopted in October 2025.



Vizhinjam Deep-sea Port to boost India's presence in trade routes

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, formally inaugurated the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala on 02 May, 2025, marking a major step in putting the southern state on the global maritime map. Located in Thiruvananthapuram, the deep-sea port is expected to significantly boost India's presence in global shipping and trade routes. The port has been built by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) in partnership with the government under a public-private model. With its commissioning, Vizhinjam positions India as a new maritime gateway in South Asia, expected to rival major ports like Colombo and Dubai. Its natural depth of nearly 20 metres and proximity to global shipping routes make it ideally suited for large container vessels.[read more](#)



ESL and Wan Hai to launch India-Med East 2 service via Suez and Alexandria

In a move aimed at bolstering maritime trade between South Asia and the eastern Mediterranean, Emirates Shipping Line (ESL) and Wan Hai Lines have announced the launch of a new joint shipping service – the India-East Mediterranean 2 (IM2). The service is scheduled to commence operations on June 01, 2025, and represents a strategic step towards expanding port connectivity and improving regional transit efficiency. The port rotation includes Mundra (India), Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), transit via the Suez Canal and Alexandria (Egypt). The first sailing is scheduled to depart from Mundra on June 1, with the service expected to offer improved port coverage and more reliable transit schedules for importers and exporters navigating the Indian-Mediterranean corridor... [read more](#)



World's largest car carrier built by the People's Republic of China sets sail

Anji Ansheng, PRC's domestically built ocean-going car carrier and the world's largest car carrier in terms of capacity, set sail on its maiden voyage to Europe, carrying approximately 7,000 PRC-made vehicles. The departure from Shanghai marks a milestone achievement, surpassing a record set just weeks earlier by BYD Shenzhen, which is a domestically built car carrier from the major PRC automaker BYD.[read more](#)



'World's largest' LCO2 carrier hits the water

The first 22,000 cubic meter (cbm) liquefied CO2 (LCO2) carrier, dubbed the "world's largest" and ordered by Greek shipping company Capital Clean Energy Carriers, has been launched in South Korea. South Korean shipbuilder HD Hyundai Mipo launched the LCO2 carrier on April 15 off the coast of Ulsan. Measuring 159.9 meters in length, 27.4 meters in width, and 17.8 meters in height, the vessel is the first of four 22,000 cbm LCO2 carriers being built at the South Korean yard for Capital Clean Energy Carriers. ... [read more](#)



Construction Order Placed for World's First Sail-Powered Containership

The French cooperative Windcoop completed the construction order for its revolutionary open-hatch sail-powered cargo ship, the first of what the group envisions will be a pioneering fleet of ships. The order was placed with Turkey's RMK Marine, which is also building the sail-powered RoRo Neoliner Origin. The vessel will be 91.3 meters (approximately 300 feet) in length with a capacity for 210 TEU and 40 reefer plugs. The three wingsails designed by Computer Wingsails (CWS) are each 350 square meters (approximately 3,800 square feet) or a total sail area of 1,050 square meters (11,300 square feet). The vessel is projected to have an average sailing speed of 9 knots. [...read more](#)



BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation signed at 6th BIMSTEC Summit

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation (AMTC) was signed on the occasion of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC member States signed the Agreement, marking a transformative step towards enhancing maritime partnerships in the region. With AMTC in place, BIMSTEC now has a comprehensive framework for seamless maritime transport, aimed at reducing logistical bottlenecks and deepening economic integration. [.. read more](#)

Maritime Economy



Container shipping giant CMA CGM reflags one of its vessels to Indian flag

CMA CGM, the world's third largest container shipping line, has reflagged one of its 2952 TEU capacity container vessel, CMA CGM 'Vitoria', in India. The ship was built in 2008 and was earlier flying the Malta flag. The shipping line plans to flag more vessels in India, working in coordination with IFSCA, Gift City and DG Shipping, India. The move could give traction to India's bid to make the country a destination for flagging and improve Indian flagged tonnage. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd, currently owns only three container vessels and almost 99 percent of



'World's first' bio-methanol-powered crew transfer vessel

Northern Offshore Services (N-O-S), a Sweden-headquartered provider of crew transfer vessels (CTVs) to the offshore wind industry, has taken delivery of a CTV converted to run entirely on bio-methanol that has been chartered by the wind turbine supplier, M/s Vestas. According to N-O-S, this is the world's first 100% bio-methanol-powered CTV. The vessel, named Transporter, was designed and developed by N-O-S as a conversion from A-Class to T-Class. The 25-metre-long CTV is a high-speed catamaran with an updated and improved hull design and 24 pax seating, specially designed for fast and reliable

Indian EXIM cargo is moved by the foreign shipping lines. Bharat Container Shipping line is another attempt to reduce dependence on foreign carriers. ...[read more](#)



India gives approval to Russia's Sberbank, other insurers for marine cover at its ports

Indian authorities have given approval to three Russian insurers, including a unit of Sberbank, to provide marine cover to ships arriving at Indian ports. India is the top buyer of Russian seaborne oil after China, since Western nations imposed sanctions on Moscow for the military action in Ukraine. India has already approved five insurers from Russia, which has no insurance firms in the International Group of P&I Clubs, which provides liability cover for personal injury or environmental clean-up claims for the majority of the world's tankers. ...[read more](#)

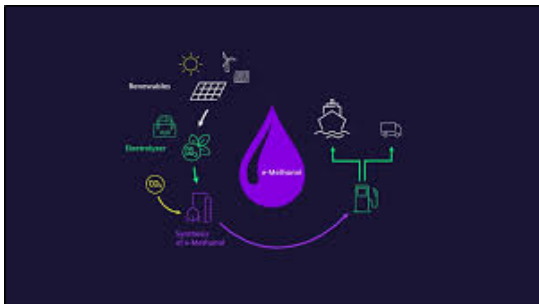
transfer of technicians and light cargo, N-O-S said.[read more](#)



Adani Group deploys India's first hydrogen powered truck for mining logistics

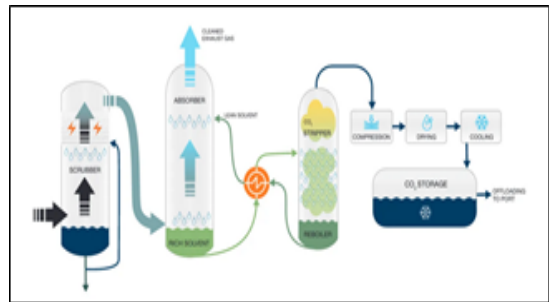
Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the Adani Group, flagged off India's first hydrogen fuel cell truck to promote cleaner transportation. These hydrogen-powered trucks will gradually replace diesel vehicles used in the company's logistics operations. In collaboration with an Indian and international energy technology firm and a major auto manufacturer, Adani is developing hydrogen fuel cell battery-operated trucks for cargo transport. Each truck, equipped with smart technology and three hydrogen tanks, can carry up to 40 tons of cargo over a 200-kilometer range.[read more](#)

Maritime Technology



World's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant opens in Denmark

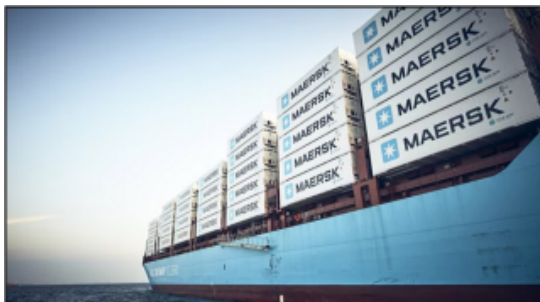
The world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant began operations in Denmark, with shipping giant Maersk set to buy part of the production as a low-emission fuel for its fleet of container ships. Located in Kasso in southern Denmark, the new plant, which has cost an estimated 150 million euros (US\$167 million), will produce 42,000 metric tons, or 53 million litres, of e-methanol per year, announced its joint owners (Denmark's European Energy and Japan's Mitsui). European Energy CEO Andersen said the company has plans to expand the Kasso



Wärtsilä launches carbon capture solution for the shipping market

Technology group Wärtsilä announced that its carbon capture solution (CCS) is now commercially available to the global maritime industry. The company said that according to its tests, the new 'Wärtsilä Carbon capture solution' is proven to reduce vessel CO2 emissions by up to 70 percent, providing ship owners with an immediate solution to meet increasingly stringent environmental regulations. The launch follows the successful installation of the world's first comprehensive, full-scale solution onboard Solvang ASA's Clipper Eris, where the technology captures

facility as well as a pipeline of similar plants in Europe, Australia, Brazil and the United States. ...[read more](#)



Maersk upgrades IoT connectivity across its fleet

A.P. Moller-Maersk (Maersk) is taking a significant step in digital innovation with the deployment of its next-generation IoT connectivity platform across 450 vessels. This includes all Maersk-owned vessels and more than 100 time-chartered vessels in the fleet. The platform (called OneWireless) is designed to meet the increasing demand for real-time data transmission and provide advanced IoT capabilities. It is a single, unified network designed to support multiple wireless technologies (NB-IoT, Cat-M, and LTE broadband) offering scalability, security, and flexibility, enabling Maersk customers to seamlessly integrate their IoT devices and services. The platform delivers seamless performance for connected container and cargo monitoring solutions, and its underlying technology is the result of a strategic blend of advanced components, selected through close collaboration with technology partners including Onomondo, Nokia, 42com Sat, Complea, and Zededa. ...[read more](#)

emissions from all exhaust gas sources. Earlier this year, Wärtsilä installed its CCS technology onboard, for full scale testing and optimisation.[read more](#)



Airtel lands the 2Africa Pearls cable in India

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers has landed the 2Africa Pearls cable in Mumbai, connecting India to Africa, and Europe via the Middle East. Bharti Airtel is the landing partner for the 2Africa Pearls, cable in India. This is in partnership with the 2Africa Pearls' investors - center3 and Meta. 2Africa Pearls brings over 100Tbps (terabits per second) of international capacity to India. 2Africa Pearls is a part of the 2Africa cable system, which will be the world's longest subsea cable system when completed, spanning over 45,000 kilometers connecting Asia to Africa and Europe through the Middle East. The 2Africa cable system is led by a consortium of Bayobab, Center3, China Mobile International, Meta, Orange, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone Group, and WIOCC, while Alcatel Submarine Networks is responsible for manufacturing and installation of the cable.[read more](#)

Maritime Sustainability



Government sets up GoM to study the environmental impact of Vadhvan Port Project

The Government of India has set up a three-member Group of Ministers (GoM) led by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, to study the



Ministry of Coal Hosts Stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Coal Transportation through Rail-Sea-Rail (RSR) Mode

The Ministry of Coal (Government of India) convened a stakeholder consultation on "Exploring the Opportunities for Sustainable

environmental impact of the ₹76,220 crore Vadhvan port project. The GoM will include Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The GoM has been tasked with deliberating and considering the report submitted by the expert agency, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), and give its recommendations. The GoM may also co-opt any other member or expert and refer matters to specialists for consultation and advice. ...[read more](#)



IMO approves net-zero regulations for global shipping

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has achieved another important step towards establishing a legally binding framework to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships globally, aiming for net-zero emissions by or around, i.e. close to 2050. The IMO Net-zero Framework is the first in the world to combine mandatory emissions limits and GHG pricing across an entire industry sector. Approved by the Marine Environment Protection Committee during its 83rd session (MEPC 83) from 7–11 April 2025, the measures include a new fuel standard for ships and a global pricing mechanism for emissions. These measures, set to be formally adopted in October 2025 before entry into force in 2027, will become mandatory for large ocean-going ships over 5,000 gross tonnage, which emit 85% of the total CO2 emissions from international shipping ...[read more](#)

Coal Transportation through the Rail-Sea-Rail (RSR) Mode” in New Delhi. The consultation aimed at driving consensus and synergy among key players in the coal logistics value chain to promote multimodal transportation for a more efficient, resilient, and sustainable future. With a projection of transporting 120 MT of coal through the Rail-Sea-Rail (RSR) mode by FY 2030, the Ministry of Coal has set a target of 65 MT to be moved via this route by FY 2026. This goal will be supported by key initiatives such as the Telescopic Freight Circular issued by the Ministry of Railways, which provides substantial freight savings, and the planned infrastructure expansion under the Rail Sagar Corridor to enhance port connectivity.[read more](#)



Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Ltd. signs MoU with Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering Ltd. (GRSE)

Swan Defense and Heavy Industries Limited, the company that runs Pipavav Shipyard in Gujarat, signed an MoU with the state-run Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineering Ltd (GRSE). The partnership will see the two shipyards jointly pursue opportunities in the construction of commercial vessels and offshore structures. The MoU could see GRSE utilise Pipavav's facilities, especially in executing its commercial orders. On the defense side, GRSE has seen a surge in naval shipbuilding contracts. Currently, the shipyard has orders for about 40 naval platforms. Based on this rising demand, GRSE in a recent earnings call said that it has increased its annual capacity to 24 ships this year, with plans for a greenfield facility in the next 3-5 years.[read more](#)

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