

**RIS**Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

**CMEC**Centre for Maritime Economy
and Connectivity

समुद्री अर्थव्यवस्था व संयोजन केंद्र


MARITIME BRIEFING

Issue: January 2026


From the Editorial Desk

The Centre for Maritime Economy & Connectivity (CMEC) established by Ministry of Ports Shipping & Waterways (MoPS&W), at RIS, New Delhi is pleased to share the JANUARY 2026 issue of the Maritime Briefing covering developments in Maritime Economy, Maritime Technology, Maritime Sustainability, International Collaboration, and Blue Economy initiatives related to India and the World.

The segment-wise snapshot of coverage in this Newsletter is given below:

MARITIME TECHNOLOGY	
● Cochin Shipyard Delivers MS Heinz to German Shipping Company	
● Fly-Box Foil-Borne Container Platform: Express Coastal Shipping Innovation	

MARITIME SUSTAINABILITY	
● New IMO Requirements Effective January 1, 2026	
● India Targets Re-flagging of 300 Foreign Vessels by 2030	

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION	BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVES
● NMHC Lothal & German Maritime Museum Sign Historic Partnership MoU	
	3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival: Heritage Tourism & Coastal Empowerment

MARITIME ECONOMY	
● JNPA Achieves Historic Container Throughput Record	
● Visakhapatnam Port Authority: ₹230 Crore Infrastructure Transformation	
● INSV Kaundinya Completes Historic Maiden Voyage: India-Oman Maritime Relations	
● Deendayal Port Authority Goes Fully Live with Enterprise Business System	
● Sagarmala Finance Corporation Launches Maritime Financing Operations	
● ONGC Enters Ethane Shipping with Mitsui OSK Lines Joint Venture	
● New Mangalore Port Pursues Satellite Port at Pavinakurve	
● Export Promotion Mission: ₹25,060 Crore Outlay for Trade Facilitation	

MARITIME TECHNOLOGY

Cochin Shipyard Delivers MS Heinz to German Shipping Company



Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) delivered MS Heinz, the first vessel in the HS EcoFreighter series of Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs), to HS Schiffahrts UG & Co. KG (Germany) on January 12, 2026. The 7,000 DWT ice-class vessel, designed by Groot Ship Design (Netherlands) and built to DNV Classification Rules, is capable of carrying project cargo, heavy loads,

steel coils, containers, timber, paper, dry bulk (coal, grain), and dangerous goods for worldwide trading. The vessel features an optimised "Groot Cross-Bow" design for enhanced speed and fuel efficiency, a single large cargo hold with six movable panels enabling flexible configurations, and medium-speed diesel propulsion. This delivery marks a significant milestone in CSL's expanding international commercial shipbuilding presence and validates India's competitiveness in global shipbuilding markets.....[read more](#)

Fly-Box Foil-Borne Container Platform: Express Coastal Shipping Innovation



Franco-Swiss startup Fly-Box is launching a techno-economic assessment with a global shipping and terminal operator for its foil-borne container platform, designed to move a 40ft container at ~25 knots. The platform targets a critical logistics gap—fast, low-emission connections between hub ports and secondary ports. Key advantages: operates from shallow-draft berths, uses standard port equipment, cuts energy use by

30-40%, positions as express coastal shipping option reducing congestion, emissions, and truck dependence while revitalizing smaller ports. Automation and "swarm" operations planned for future iterations. This represents how innovation, technology, and sustainability are shaping maritime logistics futures.....[read more](#)

MARITIME ECONOMY

JNPA Achieves Historic Container Throughput Record



Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) concluded 2025 with record-breaking performance: 7.94 million TEUs (12.64% growth YoY), 99.17 MMT total cargo (9.86% growth), and 711,412 TEUs in December — surpassing the previous August peak. The PSA Mumbai Terminal Phase 2, launched September 2025 with 4.8 million TEU annual capacity, drove this growth and now stands as JNPA's largest operating terminal. The robust performance reflects stable demand and

improved coordination across port ecosystem stakeholders....[read more](#)

Visakhapatnam Port Authority: ₹230 Crore Infrastructure Transformation



Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone for infrastructure development projects worth ₹230 crore at Visakhapatnam Port Authority during the 3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival (January 9-10, 2026). The LPG Berth Firefighting Upgrade (₹52.24 crore) will support larger vessels (40,000+ DWT) with enhanced safety compliance. The ORS Dry Dock Ship Repair (₹35.87 crore)

establishes ship repair capability, while Administrative Office Building (₹97.70 crore) and Harbour Park Apartments (₹44.20 crore) strengthen institutional and workforce capacity. This positions Visakhapatnam as a regional maritime hub supporting advanced vessel services....[read more](#)

INSV Kaundinya Completes Historic Maiden Voyage: India-Oman Maritime Relations



The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya successfully completed its maiden 18-day voyage from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Muscat (Oman) on January 13-14, 2026, covering approximately 650 nautical miles. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal warmly received the crew at Port Sultan Qaboos, describing the arrival as "celebration of deep-rooted civilisational ties spanning 5,000 years." The traditionally stitched wooden vessel, modeled on a 5th-century ship depicted in Ajanta cave paintings, showcases India's indigenous maritime heritage and sustainable shipbuilding practices. The expedition aligns with India-Oman's 70 years of diplomatic relations and marks restoration of ancient maritime routes that facilitated spice and textile trade....[read more](#)

Deendayal Port Authority Goes Fully Live with Enterprise Business System



Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) Kandla successfully achieved full-scale implementation of its Enterprise Business System (EBS) across all operational modules on January 2, 2026. The integrated SAP-based platform streamlines finance, port operations, human resources, assets, and procurement functions into a unified digital framework. The end-to-end EBS

deployment is expected to lower transaction costs, improve real-time visibility across supply chains, and significantly enhance ease of doing business for port users and shipping lines. The successful go-live demonstrates strong coordination between DPA and technology partner Tech Mahindra, enabling transition from fragmented legacy systems to digital-first operations....[read more](#)

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Launches Maritime Financing Operations



Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), India's first maritime-sector Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), commenced lending operations following NBFC registration on June 19, 2025. At its 51st Board Meeting (December 29, 2025), SMFCL sanctioned ₹4,300 crore for current fiscal disbursement, marking formal entry into maritime financing. The corporation targets a ₹8,000 crore loan book by

FY26 and aims to expand net worth from current ₹1,200 crore toward handling larger projects. SMFCL serves as nodal agency for the ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (₹20,000 crore MIF + ₹5,000 crore IIF). The company will offer tailored loan products (short-term, long-term, medium-term, balance sheet financing, non-fund-based) to maritime entities, ports, shipping companies, MSMEs, and educational institutions....[read more](#)

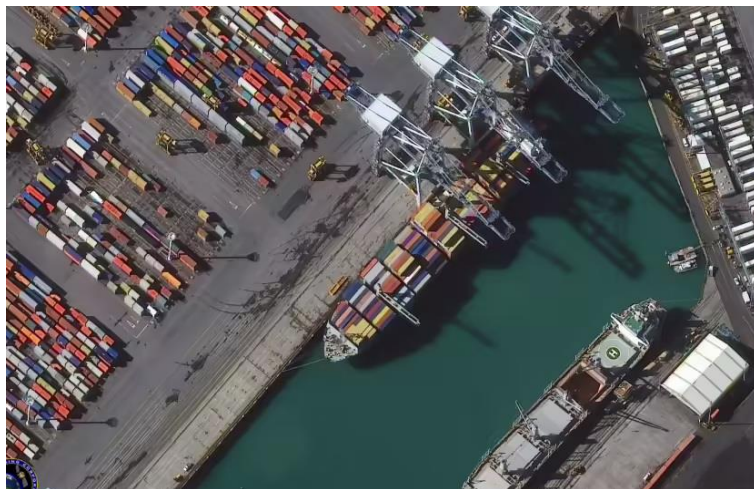
ONGC Enters Ethane Shipping with Mitsui OSK Lines Joint Venture



Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) launched a 50:50 joint venture with Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) to establish specialized ethane shipping operations. Two entities registered in GIFT City, Gandhinagar—Bharat Ethane One IFSC Private Limited and Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Private Limited—will own and operate two Very Large Ethane Carriers (VLECs) under the Indian flag. The VLECs, built in Korean shipyards at \$370 million cost, will transport ethane from the United States for ONGC Petro Additions Limited (OPaL)

feedstock, with operations commencing mid-2028. This initiative strengthens India's footprint in niche shipping, deepens global maritime partnerships, and aligns with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047....[read more](#)

New Mangalore Port Pursues Satellite Port at Pavinakurve



New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) is advancing development of a satellite port at Pavinakurve, Karnataka, reviving a long-pending deep-water port project that earlier faced limited public-private partnership interest. The port is designed to handle 14 MTPA in initial phase with Capesize-ready depths and scalability up to ~37 MTPA by 2050. NMPA will appoint a consultant for techno-economic feasibility study ahead of implementation. This initiative

represents India's strategic push to expand port capacity beyond traditional major port gateways, supporting regional trade and industrial growth.....[read more](#)

Export Promotion Mission: ₹25,060 Crore Outlay for Trade Facilitation



The Government of India launched the Export Promotion Mission with an outlay of ₹25,060 crore for FY 2025-26 to 2030-31, focused on enabling exporters with better trade finance access, smoother market entry, and stronger logistics networks. Shipping and maritime connectivity play a central role, ensuring faster, efficient movement of goods from Indian ports to global markets. The initiative aligns with broader port modernization and logistics corridor development aimed at reducing shipping costs, accelerating cargo turnover, and enhancing India's export competitiveness in diversified supply chains.....[read more](#)

MARITIME SUSTAINABILITY

New IMO Requirements Effective January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027



The International Maritime Organization (IMO) implemented new regulatory requirements effective January 1, 2026, affecting vessel operations and cargo documentation.

PFOS/PFOA Ban (SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13): Ships constructed after January 1, 2026 cannot use fire-extinguishing media containing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFOS) or PFOA and existing vessels must comply at first

scheduled survey. Prohibited substances must be delivered to shore-based reception facilities.

Container Loss Reporting (SOLAS V/31.2 & V/32.3): Ships must report loss or sighting of containers at sea, improving maritime safety and search-and-rescue coordination. Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate: Revised format with updated Record of Equipment forms from first scheduled periodical survey on or after January 1, 2026.

IMSBC Code Amendments: Effective January 1, 2027 (voluntary adoption from January 2026), amendments affect loose-grain loading procedures and stability documentation.

Grain Code Updates: New loading condition class for specially suitable compartments effective January 1, 2026.

LSA Code & FSS Code: Updated equipment requirements for ro-ro and vehicle carrier vessels from first scheduled survey. IMDG Code: Amendments MSC.556(108) introduce modifications for dangerous goods carriage from January 1, 2026. Shipowners should conduct comprehensive compliance audits, plan equipment replacement during scheduled surveys, update documentation systems, and train crews on new procedures.....[read more](#)

India Targets Re-flagging of 300 Foreign Vessels by 2030



The Government of India launched a strategic re-flagging programme targeting 300 foreign-owned vessels by 2030. Phase 1 commenced re-flagging of ~50 vessels, with completion by March 2026. Eleven global shipping companies expressed intent to shift fleet portions to Indian registry, reflecting strong international confidence. Re-flagging enables vessels to operate under Indian law for domestic cargo, expanding India's owned fleet

while reducing logistics costs and retaining foreign exchange. Supporting policies include cargo prioritization, GIFT City tax exemptions, and crew employment incentives. The initiative aligns with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, targeting top-5 maritime nation status.....[read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

NMHC Lothal & German Maritime Museum Sign Historic Partnership MoU



The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), Lothal and the German Maritime Museum–Leibniz Institute of Maritime History, Bremerhaven exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Ahmedabad (January 12-13, 2026). This strategic partnership enables joint research initiatives, academic exchanges, expert interactions, and archival resource sharing aimed at enriching the academic depth and curatorial excellence of NMHC galleries. The collaboration strengthens

India-Germany ties in maritime heritage preservation and museum development, leveraging the German Maritime Museum's internationally recognised expertise to enhance NMHC's world-class positioning as show-caser of India's 4,500-year maritime legacy....[read more](#)

BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVES

3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival: Heritage Tourism & Coastal Empowerment



The 3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival in Visakhapatnam (January 9-10, 2026) integrated maritime heritage with coastal community development. Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Union

Minister Sonowal inaugurated programming featuring Kuchipudi performances, Northeast folk dances, and 40+ women-led SHG stalls. Strategic developments: Andhra Pradesh's first Lighthouse Museum, four new Assam lighthouses (Bogibeel, Silghat, Pandu, Biswanath Ghat), and 25 additional lighthouse tourism destinations. Cumulative progress: 75 lighthouses across 10 states with modern amenities. Naidu stated: "Festival promotes local coastal culture and provides economic impetus." Cumulative lighthouse tourism achieved 18.63 lakh visitor footfall in 2024-25.....[read more](#)

=====