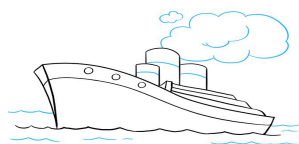




CMEC
Centre for Maritime Economy
and Connectivity
समुद्री अर्थव्यवस्था व संयोजन केंद्र



MARITIME BRIEFING

April 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

Important connectivity initiatives include commencement of operations at the Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT), developed under a consortium approach by John Keells and Adani Ports (APSEZ), which will serve as the fully automated transshipment terminal from Colombo to India and South Asia. Another remarkable moment was the docking of one of the largest container ships, 399.9 meters long MSC Turkiye, at Kerala's Vizhinjam International Seaport for the first time.

Maritime Economy

The most significant news for India, was the passing of the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha, to promote coastal shipping. In the drive towards achieving Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), the Union Minister for Ports Shipping and Waterways also launched a digital portal to invite investments for the development of infrastructure on the National Waterways. The Chinese State Market regulator halted the sale of critical ports including those in the Panama Canal to a US based consortium led by the BlackRock group.

Maritime Technology

In the technological advancements, Cathx Ocean systems released an AI-driven sub-sea camera. Miros, a marine technology company with headquarters in Norway, developed a digital system for Oil Spill action accountability for regulatory actions, spills management and auditory purposes. Another Scotland based company named Tritonia, launched a platform for marine surveyors.

Maritime Connectivity



A Landmark Achievement in India–Sri Lanka Maritime Partnership

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) announced the commencement of operations at the Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT), located at the Port of Colombo. Developed under a public-private partnership, CWIT is operated by a consortium comprising India's Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd, Sri Lankan conglomerate John Keells Holdings PLC, and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, under a 35-year Build, Operate, and Transfer (BOT) agreement. The CWIT project represents a significant investment of USD 800 million and features a 1,400-metre quay length and 20-metre depth, enabling the terminal to handle ...[read more](#)



One of the world's largest cargo ships MSC Turkiye docks at Vizhinjam port

In a historic moment for India's maritime sector, the MSC Turkiye which is one of the world's largest container ships, docked at Kerala's Vizhinjam International Seaport for the first time. The MSC Turkiye is operated by the Mediterranean Shipping Company and is known for its massive size and eco-friendly features. The vessel is 399.9 metres long, 61.3 metres wide, and has a depth of 33.5 metres. It has the capacity to carry 24,346 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), making it one of the largest container ships ever built. This move strengthens Vizhinjam's growing reputation as an important global shipping hub and shows it can handle ultra-large vessels (ULCVs).[read more](#)

Maritime Trade and Economy



Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 passed by Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, marking a significant step toward revolutionizing India's maritime sector. The bill aims to provide a dedicated legal framework for coastal trade, promoting a more economical, reliable, and sustainable mode of transportation. By facilitating coastal shipping, the legislation seeks to ease the congestion on India's overloaded road and rail networks. The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 seeks to streamline and modernize



Launch of Digital Portal for National Waterways

The union minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, launched a dedicated digital portal developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to invite private investment in infrastructure development on National Waterways. With a ceremonial click, the Minister formally inaugurated the initiative, which is aimed at facilitating ease of doing business (EODB) and encouraging private investment in inland water transport (IWT) in the country. The

India's coastal trade while aligning with the National Logistics Policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. The bill introduces future-ready provisions, aiming to integrate coastal trade into the broader logistics framework and enhance the competitiveness[read more](#)



China delays \$23B sale of Panama Canal ports to US-backed consortium led by BlackRock

China has held up the \$23 billion sale of dozens of ports worldwide - including two key ports in the Panama Canal - to a group led by US investing giant BlackRock after President Trump expressed concern about Beijing's sway over the strategic shipping lanes. On March 4, CK Hutchison,...[read more](#)

launch follows the introduction of the National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025, which lays out a framework for private players to invest in the construction and operation of jetties and terminals across India's national waterways network. .. [read more](#)



UNCTAD publishes March 2025 edition of Global Trade Update

The March 2025 edition examines tariffs and their impact on global trade. The report also presents new trade data and projections across regions, industries and sectors, covering 2024 and early 2025. While global trade reached a record \$33 trillion last year, the outlook for 2025 remains uncertain. .. [read more](#)

Maritime Technology



Cathx Ocean Unveils INKA Camera

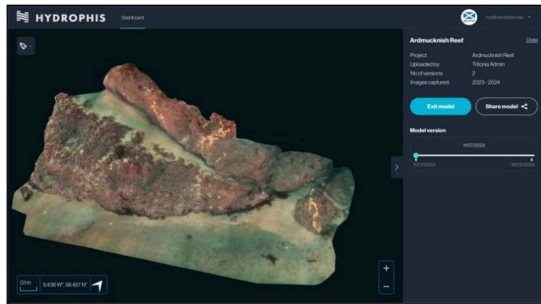
Offshore surveyors and operators have long faced the challenge of data bottlenecks, where vast amounts of raw subsea data require time-consuming post-mission processing, leading to delays and increased operational costs. Cathx Ocean is set to solve this problem with the launch of INKA Iris. INKA is Cathx Ocean's onboard hardware processing platform, designed to bring real-time AI-driven decision-making to subsea vehicles. Iris is the first camera built on the INKA platform, delivering imaging and onboard data processing in a compact, power-efficient package. Unlike traditional systems that



Miros strengthens oil spill detection system with cloud-enabled capabilities

Miros, a marine technology company working on real-time ocean insights for maritime and offshore operations has launched an Oil Spill Detection (OSD) Monitoring application in Miros Cloud. With the new Miros OSD System, oil spill data is instantly synced to the cloud, ensuring all stakeholders have access to the same real-time information, enabling seamless collaboration and informed decision-making. The system provides oil spill action accountability by storing and syncing all relevant data and operator actions for all alarm events to the cloud. Robust user

require extensive post-processing, INKA Iris processes data in real time, directly on the device. This capability reduces manual processing steps after acquisition, enhances survey efficiency, and accelerates ...[read more](#)



Tritonia unveils new marine data platform

Scotland-based company Tritonia unveiled Hydrophis, a marine data platform designed for marine surveyors, offshore operators, and regulatory bodies. Hydrophis changes how organizations host, visualize, and analyze underwater survey data, bringing clarity to seabed assessments and underwater asset inspections. It transforms traditional marine surveying by integrating advanced geo-referenced 3D photogrammetry, AI-driven analysis, and multiple data types (such as side-scan sonar, orthomosaics and multibeam sonar data) into one platform. Applications of the platform include assessing seabed characteristics, analysing offshore structures, monitoring environmental changes or ensuring regulatory compliance. ...[read more](#)

authentication and authorization for alarm handling and data access further reinforces accountability at every stage of spill event management and supports regulatory authorities' auditor function requirements.[read more](#)



European Commission releases Action Plan on Submarine Cable Security

The European Commission issued a Joint Communication (titled 'EU Action Plan on Cable Security') to strengthen the security and resilience of submarine cables. This work builds on several EU activities that are ongoing and that contribute to the security and resilience of submarine cables. Due to its clear civil-military implications, this Action Plan is conceived from the outset as an initiative that will work in full complementarity with ongoing NATO activities. The plan declares that it will furthermore contribute to the upcoming Internal Security Strategy, the Preparedness Union Strategy and the White Paper on the Future of European Defence, putting at its core the all-hazard, whole-of-government approach recommended by the 2024 report of Special Adviser Sauli Niinistö.....[read more](#)

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