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CMEC

Centre for Maritime Economy
and Connectivity

समुद्री अर्थव्यवस्था व संयोजन केंद्र

MARITIME BRIEFING

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From the Editorial Desk

The Centre for Maritime Economy & Connectivity (CMEC), established by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPS&W) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, is pleased to share the February 2026 issue of the Maritime Briefing covering developments in Maritime Technology, Maritime Economy, Maritime Sustainability, International Collaboration, and Blue Economy initiatives related to India and the world during January 15, 2026 – February 19, 2026. This edition highlights India's push to build sovereign shipbuilding and shipping capacity, the growing role of inland waterways in semiconductor and high-value logistics, new PPP and financing frameworks for port-led growth, and emerging green-fuel and digital innovations shaping the global maritime landscape. The segment-wise snapshot of coverage in this Newsletter is given below.

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MARITIME TECHNOLOGY

SbDS Greenfield & Brownfield Shipyard Capacity Expansion Portals Go Live



The Directorate General of Shipping has operationalised a comprehensive digital architecture under the Ship Building Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), bringing into effect dedicated online portals for Ship

Breaking Credit Notes, Greenfield Shipyard Capacity Expansion and Brownfield Shipyard Capacity Expansion. Introduced in alignment with the recently notified guidelines and the broader ₹44,700 crore shipbuilding support framework, the portals provide an integrated end-to-end interface for application submission, document upload, processing and real-time status tracking. The Directorate General of Shipping website functions as the central access gateway, directing stakeholders to scheme-specific modules while maintaining a unified entry point supported by specialised back-end processing. Through this hub-and-spoke digital architecture, the system enhances transparency, standardisation and ease of doing business across the shipbuilding and ship recycling ecosystem.....[read more](#)

Inland Waterways Digital Platforms Enhance Regulatory Efficiency



The Government of India is advancing regulatory modernisation in the inland waterways sector through the rollout of dedicated digital platforms designed to streamline approvals and compliance. Under the National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025, the newly launched Jal Samridhhi portal enables end-to-end online submission of No Objection Certificate (NOC) applications for the construction and operation of jetties and terminals on national waterways, reducing procedural bottlenecks and improving transparency. Complementing this initiative, the 'Jalyan and Navic' Central Database portal, introduced in 2025, serves as a unified digital registry for inland vessel registration, surveys, and crew training and certification under the Inland

Vessels Act, 2021. Together, these platforms strengthen compliance mechanisms, enhance administrative efficiency, and support ease of doing business while accelerating the formalisation and modernisation of inland waterways operations across India.....[read more](#)



Cochin Shipyard's Strategic Stake in Conoship International



Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has approved the acquisition of a 23% equity stake in Conoship International Holding B.V., Netherlands, marking its first cross-border acquisition and securing advanced ship design and engineering capabilities in Europe's coastal and short-sea shipping market. Through this partnership, CSL is expected to strengthen its portfolio of highly efficient and green vessels by combining Conoship's proven designs with Indian shipbuilding capacity across coastal cargo, inland,

offshore and specialised vessels. The strategic move reflects India's commitment to co-development of next-generation designs and positions Indian shipyards as competitive players in higher-technology segments of the global shipbuilding value chain.....[read more](#)

International Engine and Gas Systems Collaboration: Mitsui E&S-TGE-DG Shipping Dialogue



A high-level delegation from Japan's Mitsui E&S Co., Ltd. and Germany-based TGE Gas Engineering held strategic discussions with the Directorate General of Shipping in Mumbai to explore partnerships for marine engine and gas-system supplies to Indian shipyards. The dialogue focused on propulsion technologies and gas

containment systems relevant to LNG, LPG, CO₂ and future low-carbon fuels, indicating interest in deeper technical collaboration and localisation of advanced equipment within India. These engagements support India's aspiration to develop complex, clean-propulsion vessels domestically, reduce import dependence and integrate Indian shipyards more closely into global maritime technology supply chains.....[read more](#)



Shore Power and Hyperloop at Ports: Paradip and Kandla Innovations



Paradip Port Authority has commissioned a shore-to-ship power supply (SSPS) system, delivering full-load power to MV APJ INDRANI at CB-1 berth and becoming the second major port in India to operationalise shore power for visiting vessels. By enabling ships to switch off auxiliary engines while berthed, the SSPS system reduces emissions, noise and fuel consumption, improving environmental performance within port areas.....[read more](#). At Kandla, Deendayal Port Authority has awarded an ₹8.7 crore hyperloop freight project to TuTr Hyperloop, an IIT Madras-incubated start-up, marking the world's first commercial order for hyperloop-based cargo movement within a port and signalling India's willingness to test frontier logistics technologies.....[read more](#).

International Shipbuilding Conference — Global Harit Nauka Summit, Mumbai



The International Shipbuilding Conference, held on 24 February 2026 in Mumbai under the Global Harit Nauka Summit: Trust, Collaborate, Impact, convened senior government officials, naval leadership, shipyard heads, financiers, insurers and global maritime stakeholders to chart India's pathway to becoming a top-

five shipbuilding nation by 2047. Speakers emphasized the centrality of shipbuilding to India's economic security, noting that over 95 % of trade by volume and 70 % by value moves by sea. Discussion highlighted strategic imperatives including strengthening domestic capacity, securing supply chains, green vessel incentives, ship recycling reforms and expanding financing and skill ecosystems. Under Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, India aims to enter the top-10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and top-5 by 2047.....[read more](#)



MARITIME ECONOMY

Economic Survey 2025–26: Cargo Growth and PPP Momentum in Ports

**ECONOMIC
SURVEY
2025-26**



The Economic Survey 2025–26, tabled in Parliament, highlights sustained momentum in India's ports sector, reflecting growth in cargo handling capacity and private participation. The Survey notes that major ports are expanding operations through public-private partnerships (PPP), with PPP and captive operators projected to handle nearly 80% of total cargo throughput by 2030, signalling a structural shift towards market-driven capacity expansion and efficiency gains. This trajectory is supported by a pipeline

of 48 PPP projects worth around ₹23,000 crore through FY31, aimed at augmenting capacity, improving port performance and strengthening multimodal logistics integration across the country.....[read more](#)

Outer Harbour Project at V.O. Chidambaranar Port: Tripartite Financing MoU



V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOCPA), Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC) and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) have signed a tripartite MoU to finance the Outer Harbour Project at Tuticorin in the presence of the Union Ministers for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Railways. The agreement envisages joint financing of up to ₹15,000 crore under a Hybrid Annuity Model

for construction of bunds and breakwaters, capital dredging, land reclamation and associated infrastructure to support development of a mega container terminal. The MoU aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030 and PM Gati Shakti by strengthening multimodal connectivity and de-risking project execution through structured financing and institutional collaboration.....[read more](#)



Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL) Joint Venture Formation



A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VoCPA), Chennai Port Authority (CPA) and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) to establish Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL). The collaboration seeks to enhance

India's cargo security, expand containerisation and strengthen the presence of Indian-flagged vessels, aligned with the objective of positioning BCSL among the top 10 global container shipping lines by 2047. Supported by domestic container manufacturing incentives and port-led logistics reforms, the proposed entity is envisaged as a strategic instrument to strengthen control over trade routes and reduce reliance on foreign carriers.....[read more](#)

Port Performance: Chennai, Deendayal and JNPA SEZ Achieve New Highs



Chennai Port Authority crossed the 50 MMT cargo throughput milestone for FY 2025–26, achieving the target 22 days earlier than the previous year and reflecting improved operational efficiency and trade momentum.....[read more](#). Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla,

recorded its fastest-ever handling of 125 MMT in FY 2025–26, reinforcing its position as India's top-performing major port by volume....[read more](#). At Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, the JNPA SEZ registered a 26.86% year-on-year growth in EXIM container volumes in 2025, handling 20,693 TEUs compared to 16,312 TEUs in 2024, indicating stronger utilisation of port-linked industrial and logistics infrastructure....[read more](#).



Vizhinjam Transshipment Hub Capacity Augmentation



On January 24, 2026, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways inaugurated capacity augmentation works at Vizhinjam International Seaport, Thiruvananthapuram, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Kerala, advancing its development as a global container transshipment hub. The project will extend the existing container berth into a

continuous 2-kilometre facility, lengthen the breakwater to around 3.88 km, reclaim additional yard area and deploy next-generation ship-to-shore (STS) and yard cranes capable of handling ultra-large container vessels of up to 28,000 TEU. These upgrades are expected to increase mainline calls on India's west coast, reduce reliance on foreign transshipment hubs and strengthen India's role in regional container shipping networks.....[read more](#)

IWDC 3.0 at Kochi: ₹1,500 Crore Inland Waterways Pipeline



The Third Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC 3.0) convened in Kochi on January 21, 2026, under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, identifying projects worth more than ₹1,500 crore to accelerate green mobility, strengthen multimodal logistics and promote river-led economic development. Foundation stones were laid for projects exceeding

₹150 crore, including river cruise jetties in Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha and Telangana, aimed at expanding cruise tourism circuits and enhancing Centre-State coordination to unlock the economic potential of India's rivers. The programme seeks to shift bulk and passenger traffic towards low-cost, low-emission waterways while stimulating local tourism, small businesses and dispersed regional growth....[read more](#)



CMA CGM–Cochin Shipyard Contract for Six LNG-Fuelled Container Vessels



On February 18, 2026, a contract was signed in New Delhi between CMA CGM and Cochin Shipyard Limited for the construction of six 1,700 TEU LNG-fuelled feeder container vessels at Kochi, to be registered under the Indian flag. The project expands India's commercial shipbuilding portfolio in higher-technology, alternative-fuel vessels and aligns with national objectives of strengthening

domestic fleet capacity and advancing green shipping capabilities. The contract follows earlier announcements during the Prime Minister's visit to France and engagement at CMA CGM headquarters, translating strategic intent into firm orders and signalling growing confidence of global liner companies in Indian shipyards....[read more](#)

Mumbai Port–Maharashtra Government Shipbuilding Cluster SPV



Mumbai Port Authority and the Government of Maharashtra will establish a joint Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to develop a greenfield shipbuilding cluster under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme, with 100% grant support for eligible components aimed at expanding India's shipbuilding capacity. The collaboration seeks to leverage Mumbai's strategic location and established maritime ecosystem to create a modern shipbuilding hub equipped with advanced infrastructure, a skilled workforce and integrated supply chains. The

initiative aligns with the broader national objective of strengthening self-reliance in shipbuilding and enhancing India's share in the global shipbuilding market....[read more](#)



Telangana Logistics Policy 2.0: Vision for an Inland Logistics Hub



Telangana is formulating Logistics Policy 2.0 alongside an Integrated Logistics Master Plan to position itself as India's premier inland logistics hub by 2047 under the "Telangana Rising" vision of a US\$3 trillion state economy. The strategy leverages the state's central

location between India's eastern and western ports, with emphasis on multimodal logistics parks, rail-linked freight infrastructure and digital platforms connecting hinterland manufacturing clusters to major gateways. For maritime stakeholders, the policy underscores the growing role of inland logistics ecosystems in shaping port throughput patterns and influencing coastal and container shipping flows.....[read more](#)

Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships Enters into Force



On 17 February 2026, the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships, commonly known as the Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships, officially entered into force, marking a landmark in international maritime law. The treaty establishes a uniform legal framework to ensure that judicial sales of ships conducted in one contracting State are recognised in other contracting States, providing clear,

unencumbered title to buyers and reducing cross-border legal uncertainty. The Convention entered into force following ratification by the required number of States, including Barbados, El Salvador and Spain, and has been signed by 34 States. It enhances predictability in judicial sale transactions and strengthens global maritime commerce and ship financing regimes.....[read more](#)



MARITIME SUSTAINABILITY

Inland Waterways and Semiconductor Mission: IWAI's 189-Tonne ODC Movement



The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has transported a 189.260 metric tonne over-dimensional cargo (ODC) consignment via National Waterway-2 on the Brahmaputra through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route to the Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd facility at

Morigaon, Assam, demonstrating the growing role of inland waterways in handling heavy and high-value industrial cargo. The consignment, carrying critical equipment for Assam's emerging semiconductor ecosystem, highlights the capacity of waterways to support specialised logistics requirements while easing pressure on road networks and lowering emissions. The movement reflects the integration of inland water transport into advanced manufacturing supply chains aligned with the national semiconductor mission.....[read more](#)

Hybrid Electric Catamaran and IWT Infrastructure in Kolkata–Balagarh Corridor



On January 18, 2026, the Prime Minister launched a ₹830 crore maritime infrastructure package in West Bengal, inaugurating a 50-passenger Hybrid Electric Aluminium Catamaran in Kolkata and laying the foundation stone for an extended port gate system at Balagarh, including an inland waterways terminal and a road over-bridge. The hybrid vessel is designed to provide low-emission urban transport on the Ganga–

Bhagirathi–Hooghly system, while the Balagarh infrastructure will facilitate cargo and passenger movement through an upgraded multimodal corridor. Together, these initiatives aim to reduce urban road congestion, lower logistics costs and advance green inland water transport and integrated IWT–road connectivity in the region.....[read more](#)



Green Fuels at Ports: e-Methanol and Green Hydrogen at Kandla



Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, signed an MoU with Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited (APCL) on January 29, 2026, to establish a 150 tonnes-per-day e-Methanol plant at the port, advancing clean energy adoption and maritime decarbonisation.....[read more](#) parallel, Oswal Greenzo Energies—a joint venture between Oswal Energies Limited and Greenzo Energy India Limited—secured a contract to develop a 5 MW green hydrogen plant at Kandla under the Sagarmala initiative, described as the first such facility at an Indian port, with scalable capacity up to 10 MW and expected annual production of approximately 800 tonnes.....[read more](#). Together, these projects position Kandla as an emerging hub for green fuels supporting port operations and future alternative maritime energy supply chains.

Great Nicobar Mega Project Clears NGT Review



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has upheld the environmental clearance granted for the ₹80,000 crore Great Nicobar Island mega infrastructure project, observing that its strategic significance outweighs the environmental objections raised by petitioners. The project comprises a greenfield international container

transshipment terminal, an international airport, a power plant and township infrastructure on the southernmost island of India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago. The clearance enables advancement of a development envisaged as a strategic node in the Bay of Bengal shipping lanes, aimed at strengthening maritime connectivity with Southeast Asia and supporting island-based blue economy initiatives.....[read more](#)



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

India–Seychelles SESEL Joint Vision: Maritime Security and Blue Economy



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a US\$175 million economic assistance package for Seychelles during President Patrick Herminie’s State visit on February 8–9, 2026, anchored in the newly adopted SESEL Joint Vision framework that places maritime cooperation and blue economy partnership at the centre of bilateral ties. The package prioritises maritime security and capacity-building, with Memoranda of Understanding signed in areas

including hydrography, maritime security, health, digital transformation and institutional training. Key initiatives include establishment of a Seychelles Hydrographic Unit with Indian support and joint ocean research programmes aimed at advancing sustainable blue economy growth in the Western Indian Ocean region.....[read more](#)

INS Sudarshini's Lokayan 26 Global Voyage



The Indian Navy’s sail training ship INS Sudarshini has embarked on “Lokayan 26”, a 10-month transoceanic expedition covering over 22,000 nautical miles with scheduled port calls at 18 ports across 13 countries. The voyage reflects India’s “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” ethos and seeks to project the country’s seafaring heritage, traditional navigation skills and commitment to maritime

cooperation. Through engagements with partner navies, port authorities and Indian diaspora communities, the expedition is designed to strengthen maritime diplomacy, deepen international goodwill and reinforce India’s soft-power outreach across the Indo-Pacific and other regions.....[read more](#)

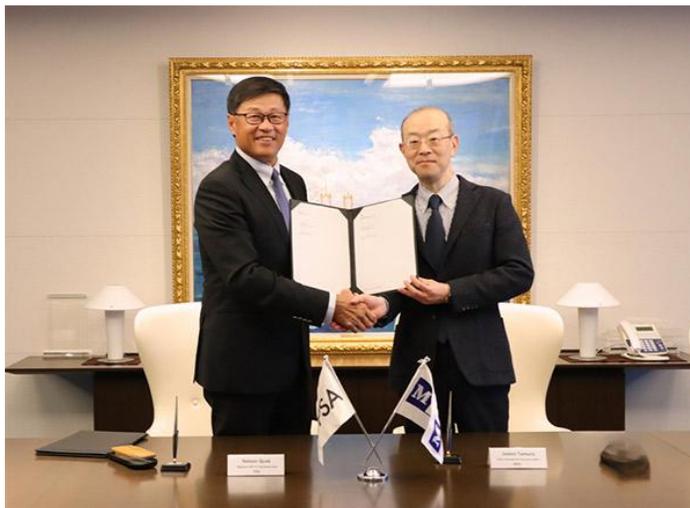


Global Developments: Dry Bulk Outlook, Nuclear Shipping and Port Vision 2050



The global dry bulk shipping market is expected to remain broadly balanced in 2026, with a potential softening projected in 2027, according to BIMCO's latest outlook, which has revised its 2026 demand forecast upward by 0.5 percentage points amid improving macroeconomic conditions and a firmer demand environment....[read more](#). In Europe, the Port of Rotterdam has unveiled its Port Vision 2050 strategy, outlining a roadmap to enhance competitiveness, sustainability and resilience through public-private collaboration, infrastructure upgrades and workforce development....[read more](#). Meanwhile, a UK-led Maritime Nuclear Consortium convened by Lloyd's Register is advancing plans to develop safe, secure and commercially viable nuclear-powered vessels, bringing together stakeholders from the maritime, nuclear, insurance and regulatory sectors to establish robust international standards....[read more](#).

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines-PSA Singapore Ro-Ro Terminal Joint Venture



Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL) and PSA Singapore have announced the formation of a joint-venture roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) terminal in Singapore, aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and generating greater synergies in global automobile logistics. The collaboration is intended to provide reliable and high-quality vehicle handling services, supporting expanding finished automobile trade flows across Asia-Pacific routes. The

proposed terminal, currently subject to regulatory approval, is expected to commence operations in the first half of 2026, strengthening Singapore's role as a key hub for regional automotive transshipment and integrated maritime logistics services....[read more](#)



China's Shipbuilding Dominance Continues



China's shipbuilding industry continues to consolidate its dominance in the global market, accounting for 66.8% of the world orderbook amid sustained growth in vessel demand. In 2025, the sector recorded double-digit increases in ship completions alongside a record pipeline of future orders, according to data released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. The performance reflects China's

scale advantages, strong policy support, integrated industrial supply chains and cost competitiveness, reinforcing its position as the leading global shipbuilding nation and presenting a continuing benchmark for other emerging shipbuilding economies....[read more](#)

Adani Ports Signs Pact with Port of Marseille Fos



Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port of Marseille Fos, France's leading maritime gateway, to strengthen cooperation in trade facilitation, port innovation and energy transition initiatives. The agreement, concluded on February 18, 2026, aims to enhance collaboration

between the two port operators and deepen connectivity between India and Europe under the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The partnership seeks to leverage complementary strengths in port management and logistics to promote sustainable port operations and improve the efficiency of international trade flows between the two regions....[read more](#)



International Fleet Review (IFR), MILAN and Conclave of Chiefs 2026



India hosted a historic maritime convergence in Visakhapatnam from 15–25 February 2026, bringing together the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026, Exercise MILAN 2026 and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs, the first time all three flagship engagements were conducted simultaneously. The mega convergence operationalised the Hon'ble Prime Minister's

MAHASAGAR vision, highlighting India's indigenous naval capabilities and commitment to being a *Preferred Security Partner* across regions. The programme featured a Presidential Fleet Review at sea with Indian and foreign ships, MILAN's sea and harbour phases focusing on interoperability and joint drills, an International City Parade and strategic deliberations among naval chiefs under India's IONS Chairmanship....[read more](#)

BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVES

Dugarajapatnam Greenfield Port and Shipbuilding Cluster in Andhra Pradesh



The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned over ₹500 crore for acquisition of more than 2,000 acres of land to develop the Dugarajapatnam Greenfield Port and Shipbuilding Cluster. The project requires a total of 2,171 acres identified in Vakadu mandal

of Tirupati district and Kota mandal in Nellore district, envisaged as a deep-draft port integrated with a shipbuilding ecosystem. The initiative is designed to complement existing major ports on the east coast while supporting regional industrial growth. As planned, the cluster is expected to advance port-led industrialisation, generate employment and contribute to India's blue economy through expanded maritime services and shipbuilding capacity....[read more](#)



AM Green's World's Largest Green Ammonia Project at Kakinada



AM Green Group is advancing what is described as the world's largest green ammonia facility at Kakinada Port in Andhra Pradesh, by repurposing an existing ammonia-urea complex into a 1.5 million tonnes per annum production hub. The project is backed by approximately 7.5 GW of solar and wind power, 1,950 MW of electrolyzers and 2 GW of round-

the-clock renewable energy, with an estimated investment of US\$10 billion. Designed to serve both export markets and domestic users, the initiative positions India as a potential major supplier of green fuels to global shipping and fertiliser sectors while anchoring new clean-energy value chains around port infrastructure.....[read more](#)

Adani Ports' Expanded Marine Fleet



Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has expanded its marine fleet to an all-time high of 129 vessels, strengthening operational capacity across its port network in India. The enlarged fleet comprises tugs, pilot boats, dredgers, barges and survey vessels that support critical marine functions such as vessel berthing, cargo operations, channel maintenance and navigational

safety. The expansion aligns with the company's strategy to scale infrastructure in line with rising cargo volumes and improve turnaround efficiency at its terminals, reinforcing its integrated port and maritime services model.....[read more](#)



MEDLOG Transport & Logistics Unveils Medlog 1 at Dammam



Medlog, the inland logistics arm of MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company Group, has inaugurated “Medlog 1”, an integrated logistics park at King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam, developed in collaboration with the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani). The facility is positioned as a strategic inland freight node linking the Kingdom’s eastern gateway with central and western regions, supporting Saudi Arabia’s ambition to strengthen its role as a global logistics hub. The development reflects a broader model of integrated port–logistics ecosystems, offering reference points for maritime

cluster expansion and multimodal connectivity planning in other emerging port economies.....[read more](#)

Indian Seafarers Top Global Abandonment List



Indian seafarers accounted for the highest number of crew abandonment cases globally in 2025, marking the third consecutive year in which they have led the tally, according to data released by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). A total of 1,125 Indian nationals were reported abandoned out

of 6,223 seafarers affected across 410 vessels worldwide, making 2025 the worst year on record for such incidents. The trend highlights persistent vulnerabilities in enforcement of international maritime labour standards, ship registry oversight and welfare protection mechanisms, underscoring the need for stronger safeguards for Indian seafarers operating in global shipping markets.....[read more](#)
