

# NEWSLETTER

*Connecting You to the Future of Shipping. Discover, Engage, Inspire!*

## WAVES OF CHANGE: EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION IN SHIPPING

*September: 2025  
Volume 11*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### ***Seasonal Harvests***

*Building on our last edition, this newsletter provides further insights into key seasonal products, highlighting the country **Maldives** in this issue.*

### ***An essential guide to shipping Incoterms***

*This edition continues our exploration of vital shipping documents, focusing specifically on the **DDP** used in maritime transport.*

### ***Global Freight Trends: Monthly Snapshot***

*The **News head** section brings you a roundup of important developments and news across the industry.*

The shipping industry, often described as the lifeline of global trade, is evolving rapidly with advancements in technology, sustainability goals, and digitalization. Traditionally, shipping was seen as a conservative industry, dependent on experience and long years of service. But today, the industry is rapidly changing. Digitalization, automation, green shipping initiatives, and global logistics integration are reshaping the way shipping lines and logistics companies operate. This evolution demands fresh perspectives and new skill sets, which the younger generation is uniquely equipped to provide. Amidst this transformation, the role of young professionals has become more vital than ever. The future of the maritime and logistics sector depends heavily on how effectively it attracts, nurtures, and retains young talent.



**Mr. Abraham Mathew**  
Branch Manager  
Capeline Shipping  
India Pvt Ltd (BO)

### **The Role of Young Professionals**

Young talents are bringing energy, innovation, and adaptability into the maritime and logistics sectors. Whether in documentation, operations, customer service, or digital systems, the new generation is helping shipping companies move towards greater efficiency and transparency. They are also more open to technology-driven tools—from digital booking platforms to AI-based logistics management systems—making the industry more connected and customer-centric.

### **Challenges Faced by the Young Generation**

Many young graduates are unaware of the vast career opportunities available in the maritime and logistics field. The lack of industry exposure in educational institutions often leads to a talent gap. The industry is increasingly digital, but many young professionals lack the technical or operational knowledge required for shipping documentation, supply chain management, or vessel operations. Shipping is a time-sensitive business that demands dedication, attention to detail, and readiness to handle unexpected situations. For fresher's, balancing work pressure and personal life can be challenging. The hierarchical structure of the shipping industry sometimes makes young employees feel their career progression is slow, leading to reduced motivation or higher attrition.

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# WHAT IS AN IMPORT CUSTOMS DECLARATION?

An **Import Customs Declaration** is a mandatory document submitted by the importer or their appointed customs broker to the customs authorities at the destination country, declaring detailed information about the imported goods. It serves as the official statement of the shipment's contents, value, origin, and applicable duties or taxes, ensuring compliance with local regulations. This document is essential for enabling customs authorities to assess, verify, and clear the shipment for entry into the domestic market. By accurately providing all required details, the Import Customs Declaration helps avoid clearance delays, penalties, or seizure of goods, while ensuring the smooth flow of trade and compliance with international standards.

**An Import Customs Declaration typically includes:**

- ❖ Names and addresses of the importer, exporter, and customs broker
- ❖ Invoice number, purchase order, and reference details
- ❖ Harmonized System (HS) codes of goods
- ❖ Detailed description, quantity, and weight of goods
- ❖ Country of origin and country of export
- ❖ Declared customs value and currency of transaction
- ❖ Applicable duties, taxes, and fees payable
- ❖ Supporting documents (commercial invoice, packing list, bill of lading/airway bill, certificates as required)

# SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT: SEE WHAT'S GROWING!!!

The Maldives, located in the Indian Ocean southwest of Sri Lanka and India, is an island nation consisting of 26 atolls made up of more than 1,000 coral islands. Its capital, Malé, serves as the political, cultural, and economic center, while the country is globally renowned as a premier luxury tourism destination. Surrounded by rich marine biodiversity and turquoise waters, the Maldives holds strategic significance along major Indian Ocean trade routes. Traditionally dependent on fishing, especially tuna, the nation has diversified its economy, with tourism, hospitality, and fisheries remaining its primary contributors. In recent years, it has also begun investing in renewable energy, aviation, and infrastructure development to ensure sustainable growth. The Maldives experiences a tropical monsoon climate, marked by two distinct seasons: the dry northeast monsoon (November to April) and the wet southwest monsoon (May to October), bringing heavy rains and occasional storms. Despite challenges of limited arable land and vulnerability to climate change, the country has promoted innovative farming practices such as hydroponics and greenhouse cultivation to enhance food production and reduce reliance on imports. Crops and fruits that are widely grown or adapted to the Maldivian climate include:

- ✓ **Coconut** – Grown year-round, a staple crop across all islands
- ✓ **Breadfruit** – Summer and early monsoon (May to September)
- ✓ **Taro** – Year-round, mainly cultivated in swampy areas
- ✓ **Bananas** – Year-round, several local varieties are grown
- ✓ **Papayas** – Year-round, thriving in the tropical climate
- ✓ **Mangoes** – Summer (April to July)
- ✓ **Chillies** – Year-round, widely used in Maldivian cuisine



*More related on next edition>>>*



# UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS



**Icebreakers:** These powerful ships are designed to break through thick sea ice, enabling safe passage for other vessels in polar regions. They feature reinforced hulls, specialized bows, and strong propulsion systems to operate in extreme conditions.

**Dredgers:** Specially built ships used to remove sediment, sand, and debris from the seabed to maintain navigable waterways, harbors, and ports. They can be hopper dredgers, cutter suction dredgers, or trailing suction dredgers, depending on their function.

**Cable-Laying Vessels:** These vessels are equipped to lay and repair underwater cables for telecommunications and power transmission. They feature large cable tanks, precise positioning systems, and specialized handling equipment.

**Heavy-Lift Vessels:** Built to transport extremely large and heavy cargo, such as oil rigs, yachts, or military equipment. They are equipped with powerful cranes or semi-submersible decks that can lower into the sea for loading oversized structures.

**LNG Carriers:** Ships specifically designed to transport liquefied natural gas at extremely low temperatures. They are equipped with insulated storage tanks and advanced safety systems to handle the cryogenic cargo.

**Research Vessels:** Specially outfitted ships that support scientific studies of the ocean, atmosphere, and marine life. They carry laboratories, sonar systems, and sometimes submersibles for deep-sea exploration.

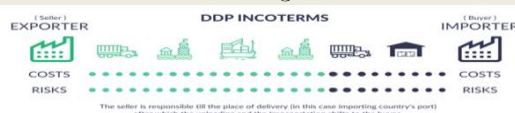
**Firefighting Vessels:** Purpose-built ships equipped with high-capacity water cannons and firefighting equipment. They assist in controlling fires on ships, oil platforms, or coastal facilities.

**Hospital Ships:** Floating medical facilities that provide healthcare services during emergencies, wars, or humanitarian missions. They are equipped with operating rooms, intensive care units, and accommodations for medical staff.

*More related are headed way in the next edition>>>*

## “EXCITED TO DIVE DEEPER”

**Delivered Duty Paid (DDP)** is an Incoterm applicable to any mode of transport, placing the highest responsibility on the seller. Under DDP, the seller bears all costs and risks of transportation, including export clearance, carriage, import customs clearance, duties, and taxes, making it the only term where the seller is liable for import payments. The responsibility shifts to the buyer once the goods are delivered at the nominated destination, which could be the importer's premises or another agreed point in the importing country. While DDP heavily favors the buyer since the seller manages nearly all obligations, it is still important for buyers to remain aware of certain costs or processes they may be better positioned to handle, and for both parties to clearly define the delivery point to avoid misunderstandings.



## RARELY NOTED POINT

CMA CGM completed its largest deal in Feb 2024, acquiring **Bolloré Logistics for €4.85B**. With **900,000 m<sup>2</sup>** of warehouse space and **13,500 staff**, the move places CMA CGM among the world's top five logistics operators.



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## **The Future of Shipping in India**

India's shipping industry is on the verge of a major transformation. With increasing trade volumes, the rise of digital logistics, and the push for green shipping, the need for skilled and energetic professionals is greater than ever. Young talents who embrace innovation, sustainability, and global collaboration will play a crucial role in shaping the future of this industry. India handles over 90-95% of its EXIM trade by volume via ports. Enhancing shipping reduces foreign dependence and saves costs. Strategic location in the Indian Ocean; growth in global trade (especially Asia, Africa) means demand for transshipment, regional hub roles. India becomes a regional hub for shipping & transshipment in Indian Ocean region.

## **Challenges Facing the Shipping Companies**

The global shipping industry is the backbone of international trade, but it also faces a range of challenges that are reshaping how companies operate today. From economic pressures to digital transformation, shipping companies must adapt quickly to remain competitive and efficient.

Shipping lines constantly deal with volatile freight rates influenced by global trade demand, fuel prices, and geopolitical tensions. Sudden rate drops or capacity oversupply can severely impact profitability, especially for smaller operators and NVOCCs. High bunker (fuel) costs, port charges, and equipment handling expenses continue to burden shipping companies. With stricter environmental regulations, companies are also investing heavily in cleaner fuels and new vessel technologies, increasing capital expenditure. Trade disruptions due to wars, sanctions, pandemics, or regional conflicts often cause delays, rerouting, and uncertainty in global supply chains. Shipping companies must remain flexible and resilient to manage sudden shifts in cargo flows and routes.

While the shipping industry is moving toward digital documentation, tracking systems, and automation, many companies—especially traditional ones—still face technological and skill gaps. Integrating modern IT systems requires investment and trained manpower.

Attracting and retaining young professionals is becoming a major challenge. The industry's long working hours, demanding schedules, and lack of awareness among youth make recruitment difficult. Companies must invest in training, motivation, and career growth programs to build the next generation of shipping professionals.

Major ports often face congestion and logistical bottlenecks, leading to vessel delays and extra costs. The ripple effects can disrupt schedules, damage customer relationships, and increase operational expenses.

In today's rapidly changing environment, shipping companies must balance cost efficiency, compliance, technology, and talent management. Those who adapt with innovation, collaboration, and sustainability at their core will emerge stronger in the next era of global shipping.







# “ORIGINS OF SEABORNE COMMERCE”

## The E-Commerce Revolution in shipping

The rise of e-commerce has brought transformative changes to the shipping sector, with online retail giants such as Amazon and eBay driving a new era of consumer behavior. The surge in demand for fast, reliable, and cost-effective delivery solutions redefined logistics, a trend further accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly boosted online shopping and placed added pressure on global supply chains. This shift has reshaped customer expectations, where same-day and next-day delivery have become the norm, compelling retailers and logistics providers to innovate continuously. Advanced technologies such as block chain, artificial intelligence, and machine learning have emerged as key enablers, improving cost efficiency, enhancing supply chain transparency, and increasing delivery accuracy.

*Stay tuned for more next edition>>>*

The shipping and logistics industry of today is the result of decades of innovation and progress. From the invention of standardized shipping containers to the development of advanced machinery and digital technologies, these breakthroughs have enabled businesses to move products swiftly and reliably across the globe. What once took weeks can now be achieved in just a single day, with highly streamlined processes ensuring efficiency at every step. Looking ahead, the industry is set to be reshaped further by emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud-based systems, blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data. Together, these innovations promise to enhance transparency, improve decision-making, and reduce costs, paving the way for a smarter, more efficient, and sustainable shipping ecosystem in the future.

# “LITTLE-KNOWN FACT”



## Ventilated Containers

**Ventilated Containers** are specialized intermodal containers designed to allow natural airflow through the cargo, preventing the build-up of heat, moisture, or odors during transport. Equipped with ventilation openings on the walls and sometimes at the ends, these containers rely on passive air circulation rather than mechanical systems to maintain cargo quality. They are ideal for transporting goods that require fresh air exposure or protection from condensation, such as coffee beans, cocoa, tobacco, and certain agricultural products. Ventilated containers are particularly effective for medium- to long-distance transport where natural ventilation helps preserve the integrity of sensitive commodities. Widely used in the agricultural and commodity trading sectors, they help prevent spoilage and maintain product freshness. Built to ISO standards, they can be handled across all modes of transport—road, rail, and sea—offering the same strength and durability as standard containers while ensuring optimal ventilation for cargo protection.





## “WSC Launches AI-Powered Cargo Safety Program to Tackle Misdeclared Goods”



The World Shipping Council (WSC) has introduced its new **Cargo Safety Program**, an AI-driven initiative designed to combat the growing issue of misdeclared and undeclared dangerous goods, a leading cause of ship fires. Developed in partnership with the U.S. National Cargo Bureau, the program deploys an advanced digital screening tool that scans millions of shipping bookings in real time, using keyword detection, trade pattern recognition, and AI algorithms to identify high-risk cargo before loading. With ship fires reaching a decade-high and misdeclared dangerous goods responsible for over 25% of cargo-related incidents, the initiative is a critical step toward safeguarding crew, protecting cargo, and preserving the marine environment. Already, carriers representing more than 70% of global TEU capacity have joined the program, underscoring the industry’s commitment to enhanced safety and resilience.

The program also introduces standardized inspection protocols and an incident feedback loop to improve prevention strategies based on real-world cases. While WSC President and CEO Joe Kramek stressed the importance of collaboration and advanced tools to mitigate risks, he also reminded shippers of their legal responsibility to accurately declare dangerous goods. With recent reports showing over 10% of shipments containing deficiencies, the Cargo Safety Program addresses a pressing challenge by combining technology, regulation, and shared industry responsibility. This marks a transformative step in building a safer, smarter, and more sustainable shipping ecosystem.

## Gulf trainer Expands Multimodal Logistics Capabilities from Sharjah to Global Markets

Gulftainer, the UAE-based global logistics and port management company, is strengthening Sharjah’s position as a leading multimodal logistics hub with the launch of new integrated facilities, including the Sharjah ICD – the nation’s first bonded inland container depot – and K-Flow, a state-of-the-art logistics hub at Khorfakkan Commercial Terminal. With five decades of expertise and a strong regional footprint, Gulftainer is driving seamless connectivity across sea, land, and soon rail, aligning with major national infrastructure projects like Etihad Rail. These developments enhance Sharjah’s unique geographic advantage as the only emirate with access to both the UAE’s east and west coasts, boosting cargo velocity and enabling efficient trade flows across the Gulf and global markets. Positioned at the forefront of next-generation supply chain solutions, Gulftainer’s multimodal expansion underscores its vision to deliver intelligent, integrated, and resilient logistics ecosystems that power regional and international commerce.



# “Sohar Free Zone Welcomes New CEO, Eng. Raid Al Rubaiey”

SOHAR Port and Freezone has announced the appointment of Eng Raid Al Rubaiey as CEO of SOHAR Freezone and Deputy CEO of SOHAR Port, effective 1 October 2025. Bringing over two decades of leadership experience across Oman’s key industrial sectors, including energy, food, aluminium, petrochemicals, and infrastructure, Eng Rubaiey previously served as CEO of Oman Oilseeds Crushing Company and played a role in several large-scale national projects. His appointment comes at a pivotal time as SOHAR strengthens its position as a global trade and investment hub, driving new opportunities in green manufacturing, logistics, and international partnerships. Guided by Oman’s Vision 2040, he aims to build on SOHAR’s growth momentum, attract fresh investment, and reinforce the Freezone’s role as a catalyst for economic diversification and long-term industrial development.



## Welcome On Board

### Raid Al Rubaiey

CEO SOHAR Freezone  
Deputy CEO SOHAR Port



# “AD Ports Taps Van Oord for Karachi Terminal Dredging Project”

AD Ports’ Karachi Terminals have signed a major dredging agreement with Van Oord to expand capacity at both the Karachi Gateway Container Terminal (KGTL) and Karachi Gateway Terminal Multipurpose Limited (KGTML). Scheduled for completion in Q1 2026, the project will deepen berths and navigation channels, allowing KGTL to handle vessels up to 350 meters in length and 15.5 meters draft, boosting its annual capacity from 750,000 TEU to 1 million TEU. At KGTML, the upgrade will double vessel handling capacity from 60,000 to 120,000 tonnes, significantly strengthening its role in multipurpose and bulk cargo operations.

The dredging initiative is part of AD Ports’ \$300 million investment to modernize Karachi terminals with infrastructure enhancements and digital upgrades. Operated under joint ventures with Kaheel Terminals, both facilities form a core part of AD Ports’ long-term commitment to Pakistan’s trade growth. Leaders from AD Ports, Noatum Ports, and Van Oord emphasized that the project will not only enhance operational efficiency and accommodate larger vessels but also reduce logistics costs, optimize freight spending, and support Pakistan’s economic resilience and global connectivity.



# Andhra Pradesh Fast-Tracks Machilipatnam Port Development

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has accelerated construction of the long-awaited Machilipatnam Port, with operations expected to commence by October 2026. During a recent site inspection, Special Chief Secretary for Roads, Transport and Buildings, MT Krishnababu, reviewed progress on critical works including breakwaters, dredging, berths, approach roads, warehouses, and administrative buildings. Developed at a cost of ₹5,500 crore, the port will feature 16 berths in total, with four berths to be completed in the first phase to enable early operations, while the remaining berths will be built in subsequent phases. Currently, 50% of the project is complete. Once operational, the port is expected to boost trade for Andhra Pradesh and serve neighboring Telangana, with detailed project reports already prepared to enhance connectivity through national highways and rail links, including the Hyderabad corridor. Krishnababu emphasized Chief Minister Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu's commitment to fast-tracking the project and also urged speedy completion of the Gilakaladindi fishing harbour to benefit local fishing communities.



## Trade Flows Surge as DP World Mundra Achieves All-Time High



DP World's Mundra International Container Terminal (MICT) achieved a historic milestone in August 2025, handling 142,273 TEU in a single month – its highest-ever throughput, surpassing the previous record of 138,983 TEU set in March this year. With direct trade links to major global markets including the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and the United States, the terminal continues to play a vital role in strengthening India's international connectivity and enhancing supply chain resilience.

Equipped with a 632-meter quay, deep draft for large container vessels, and a 50-acre Container Freight Station supported by dedicated on-dock rail connectivity, DP World Mundra combines scale with efficiency. The terminal has also transitioned all container handling equipment to electric power, significantly reducing diesel use and cutting annual carbon emissions—underscoring its commitment to sustainable growth while delivering reliable, world-class logistics services to customers.





## Our People, Our Pulse: Our Passion & Performance

This year's Onam celebration was a true reflection of togetherness and joy. The day was filled with laughter and cheer as everyone came together to take part in traditional Onam games, showcasing both fun and friendly spirit. The graceful Thiruvathira performance added a cultural charm, connecting us to the rich heritage of Kerala. The highlight of the celebration was, of course, the grand Onam Sadya, where we all sat together and enjoyed the traditional feast. It was not just a festival, but a beautiful reminder of unity, culture, and the happiness of celebrating as one family.



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