

Draft

F.No.25-25011/3/2024-NT-DGS (C. No. 34098)

Date: xx.xx.2026

Merchant Shipping Notice XX of 2026

Subject: Declaration of Indian Coastal Waters as Sea Area A1 & Sea Area A2 under GMDSS-reg

For the attention of:

Ship owners, Ship operators, Shipping managers, Ship Agents, Ship Masters, Recognized Organizations, Manufacturers, Surveyors, Indian Coast Guard (ICG), National Hydrographic Office (NHO), Maritime Training Institutes and other national and international concerned stake holders.

Purpose:

The purpose of this notice is to notify and promulgate the Sea Area status of Indian Coastal Waters under SOLAS Convention as Sea Area A1 & Sea Area A2.

Background: -

The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) divides the global waters into four Sea Areas, designated as A1, A2, A3, and A4. These Sea Areas are defined based on the communication coverage provided by the Coast Radio Stations (CRS) available within a particular geographical region.

In the absence of operational Coast Radio Stations along the Indian coast, the entire Indian Coastal waters were previously designated as Sea Area A3. Consequently, all Indian-registered ships operating within Indian Coastal Waters (as defined under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025) were required to carry the full complement of radiocommunication equipment, including duplicated equipment, as prescribed for Sea Area A3, in order to comply with the functional requirements, set out in SOLAS Regulation IV/4.

Subsequently, Coast Radio Stations primarily known as Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCCs) and Maritime Rescue Sub-Centers (MRSCs) equipped with GMDSS-compliant shore-based radiocommunication stations have been established along the Indian coast. In view of the operationalization of these Coast Radio Stations, the Government has decided to declare the corresponding Indian Coastal Waters as Sea Area A1 and Sea Area A2, in accordance with the communication coverage provided by the respective Coast Radio Stations.

Requirement: -

SOLAS Regulation IV/5 requires Contracting Governments (CGs) to provide appropriate shore-based facilities for the maritime mobile service in the frequency bands 156–174 MHz (VHF),

415–535 kHz (MF), and 1605–27,500 kHz (MF/HF). The establishment of Coast Radio Stations (CRS) is of utmost importance to ensure the provision of terrestrial radio communication services for maritime mobile operations and for effective Search and Rescue (SAR) services within the Indian Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

Establishment of Coast Radio Stations (CRS): -

Recognizing the need, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) have established 32 VHF and MF GMDSS compliant stations along the Indian Coasts for providing distress, urgency, safety and SAR communications services in the Indian Coastal Waters. These Coast Radio Stations are primarily designated as Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) and Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres (MRSCs). The equipment installed operates in the frequency range 156.025 – 162.025 MHz in the VHF band and 1605 – 27500 kHz in the MF/HF band. The technical details of these stations, including their locations, transmitter power outputs, coverage ranges, emissions, and other technical particulars, is provided in Annexure I. The corresponding coverage range map is enclosed as Annexure II.

Notification: -

The 32 Coast Radio Stations (CRS) listed in Annexure I are currently operational and providing GMDSS maritime radiocommunication services in both the VHF and MF frequency bands within Indian Coastal Waters.

Accordingly, the entire Indian Coastal Waters are redesignated as Sea Area A1 or Sea Area A2, depending on the coverage range of the respective CRS, for the reception and relay of Distress, Urgency, and Safety radiocommunications.

Implementation: -

Accordingly, all the ships and vessels operating in Indian Coastal Waters shall install the required radiocommunication and navigational equipment to comply with the functional requirements prescribed under SOLAS Regulation IV/4 and the Merchant Shipping (Radiocommunication) Rules, 2026.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

(Signature)

Enclosure:

*Annexure-I- List of Coast Radio Stations (MRCC & MRSC) for Sea Area A-1 & Sea Area A-2.
Annexure-II – Coverage range Map.*

Annexure -I

List of Coast Radio Stations (MRCC & MRSC) for Sea Area A-1 & Sea Area A-2

Ser No	Name of the Station	MMSI Number of the Station	Geographical Location of the Station (Lat. & Long.)	Transmitter Power Output	Coverage Range (in Nautical Miles)	Emissions	Watch Hours	Purpose	Associate d RCC/ MRCC	Operational Status of Implementation
	a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.	g.	h.	j.	k.
1	Jakhau	004192287	23°13.00 N 068°37.00 E	VHF-50 W MF/HF-150 W	VHF- 20nm MF/HF-100 nm	VHF-G3E/F3E MF/HF-J3E, H3E,J2B/ F1B	24X7	Search & Rescue	MRCC Mumbai	Operational
2	Okha	004192286	22° 28.00 N 069°03.00 E							
3	Mundra	004192288	22°44.00 N 069°42.00 E							
4	Vadinar	004192285	22°24.00 N 069°42.00 E							
5	Pipavav	004192284	21°00.00 N 071° 26.00 E							
6	Veraval	004192283	20°54.00 N 070°22.00 E							
7	Dahanu	004192282	20° 04.00 N 072°42.00 E							
8	Mumbai	004192273	19°01.00 N 072°49.00 E							
9	Murud Janjira	004192277	18°16.00 N 072°59.00 E							
10	Ratnagiri	004192278	16° 53.00 N 073°16.00 E							
11	Karwar	004192276	14°46.00 N 074°09.00 E							
12	Bey pore	004192274	11°10.00 N 075°48.00 E							
13	Vizhinjam	004192275	08°23.00 N 076°59.00 E							

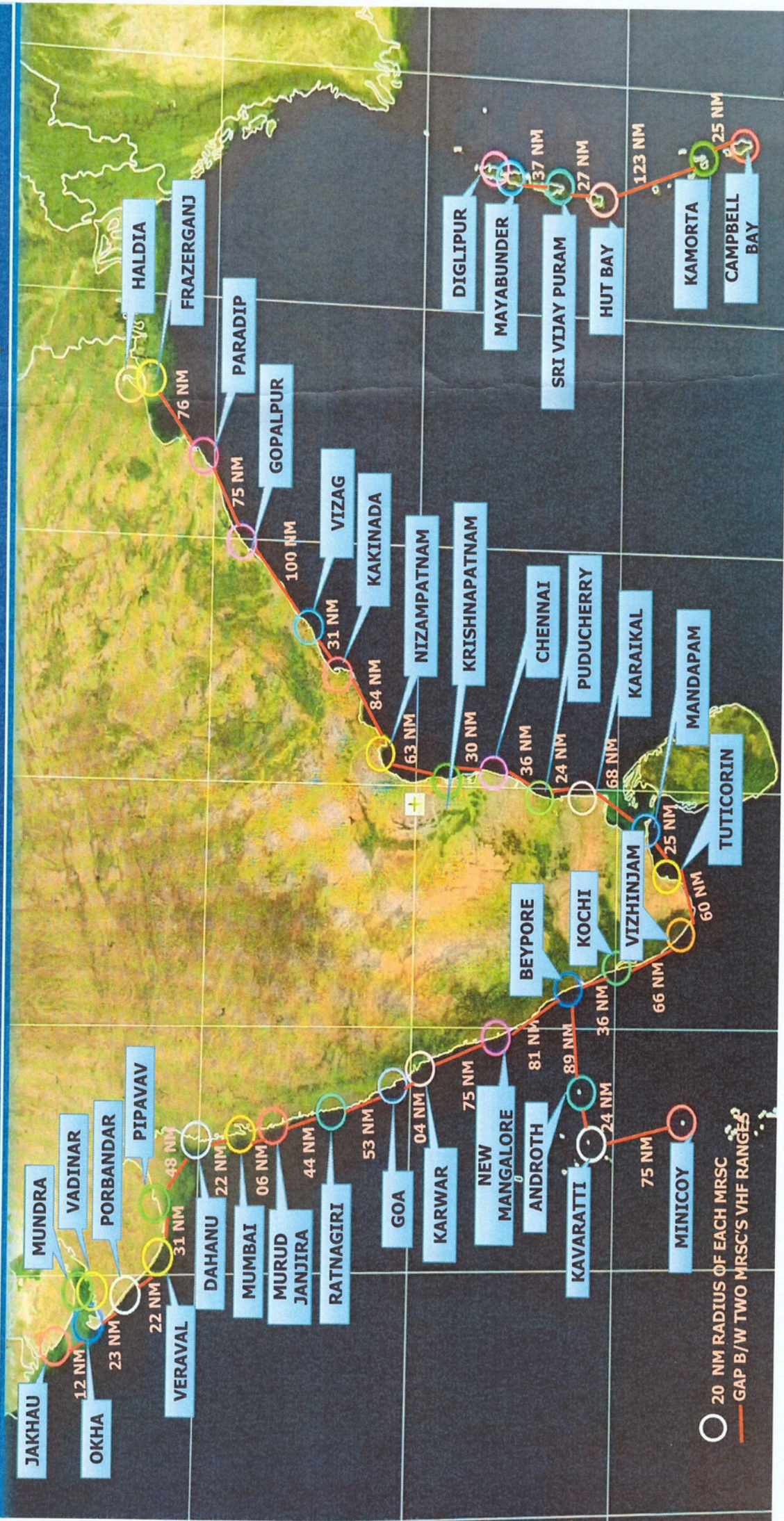
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	a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.	g.	h.	j.	k.
14	Androth	004192280	10°48.00 N 073°40.00 E							
15	Kavaratti	004192281	10°32.00 N 072°37.00 E							
16	Minicoy	004192279	08°18.00 N 073°04.00 E							
17	Tuticorin	004194449	08°45.00 N 078°12.00 E							
18	Mandapam	004194450	09°17.00 N 079°09.00 E							
19	Karaikal	004194454	10°53.00 N 079°49.00 E							
20	Puducherry	004194451	11°57.00 N 079°48.00 E							
21	Chennai	004194448	13°06.00 N 080°18.00 E							
22	Krishnapatnam	004194452	14°15.00 N 080°07.00 E							
23	Nizampatnam	004194453	15°53.00 N 080°39.00 E							
24	Kakinada	004194455	16°57.00 N 082°16.00 E							
25	Gopalpur	004194457	19°19.00 N 084°57.00 E							
26	Frazerganj	004194456	21°33.00 N 088°15.00 E							

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	a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.	g.	h.	j.	k.
27	Diglipur	004198018	13°18.00 N 093°04.00 E	VHF-50 W MF/HF-150 W	VHF-20nm MF/HF-100 nm	VHF- G3E/F3E MF/HF-J3E, H3E,J2B/ F1B	24X7	Search & Rescue	MRCC Sri Vijaya Puram	Operational
28	Mayabunder	004198015	12°55.00 N 092°53.00 E							
29	Sri Vijaya Puram	004198013	11°40.00 N 092°46.00 E							
30	Hutbay	004198014	10°34.00 N 092°33.00 E							
31	Kamorta	004198016	08°02.00 N 093°34.00 E	VHF-50 W MF/HF-150 W	VHF-20nm MF/HF-100 nm	VHF- G3E/F3E MF/HF-J3E, H3E,J2B/ F1B	24X7	Search & Rescue	MRCC Mumbai	Planned
32	Campbell Bay	004198017	07°00.00 N 093°55.00 E							
33	Porbandar	004192202	21°38.00 N 069°37.00 E							
34	Goa	004192206	15°25.00 N 073°48.00 E							
35	New Mangalore	004192204	12°56.00 N 074°48.00 E	VHF-50 W MF/HF-150 W	VHF-20nm MF/HF-100 nm	VHF- G3E/F3E MF/HF-J3E, H3E,J2B/ F1B	24X7	Search & Rescue	MRCC Chennai	Planned
36	Kochi	004192205	09°58.00 N 076°16.00 E							
37	Vizag	004194402	17°40.00 N 083°14.00 E							
38	Paradip	004194403	20°16.00 N 086°42.00 E							
39	Haldia	004194404	22°02.00 N 088°06.00 E							

Annexure -II

Coverage range Map

VHF DSC (20 NM) COVERAGE OF MRCC/MRSC



MF DSC (100 NM) COVERAGE MRCC/MRSC

