



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

# Sagar Sandesh

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Goods Exports Dip 15.9% in July

## Seafarers' Contribution to the Indian National Economy: A Vital Maritime Pillar

Author- Capt Gajanan Karanjikar, Head- Seafarers RIGHTS committee, President AIMPA, MD- Cordelia Marine Services



Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar.

This is a series of articles about seafarers' contribution to Indian Trade and economy. The idea is to bring front the contribution by seafarers at the backdrop of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023. The idea is not to criticize but highlight the very contribution of seafarers in the National Grind of the Economy. The maritime sector is often neglected and that is because the leadership of the country needs to understand the Domain. It is a specialized domain, so be it but more than that, it is neglected by the layman.

The maritime industry has long been an integral part of India's economic landscape, serving as a vital conduit for trade, commerce, and connectivity. At the heart of this industry are seafarers, those courageous men, and women who navigate the world's oceans to facilitate global trade. Beyond their undeniable role in shaping India's maritime prowess, seafarers

also wield a significant influence on the nation's economy, fostering growth and stability through their invaluable contributions. This article delves into the multifaceted impact of seafarers on the Indian national economy, underscored by compelling statistics that highlight their substantial role.

Seaborne trade continues to expand, bringing benefits for consumers across the world through competitive freight costs. Thanks to the growing efficiency of shipping as a mode of transport and increased economic liberalization, the prospects for the industry's further growth continue to be strong.

**Seafarers RIGHTS committee founded under the auspices of seafarer's involvement and contribution, by seafarers, for seafarers and of Seafarers, will work towards the seafarers RIGHTS and take up things with authorities fearlessly.**

There are over 50,000 merchant ships trading internationally, transporting every kind of cargo. The world fleet is registered in over 150 nations and manned by nearly 2 million seafarers.

**The Maritime Industry: A Key Driver of India's Economy**

India's geographical location, with an extensive coastline stretching over 7,500 kilometers, has historically positioned it as a pivotal maritime nation. The country's vast territorial waters and strategic location along major

international shipping routes have propelled it to be a linchpin of global maritime trade. The Indian maritime sector encompasses shipping, ports, shipbuilding, and associated services, contributing significantly to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Seafarers, as the backbone of

this industry, play an essential role in sustaining and nurturing India's maritime prowess. Their involvement encompasses a multitude of functions, from operating cargo vessels to ensuring smooth navigation and providing

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# Seafarers' Contribution to the Indian National Economy ..... From Page : 1

essential shipboard services. The sector also encompasses diverse profiles, including officers, engineers, ratings, and specialized personnel, each making their unique contributions to the industry's growth.

**In 2021, Indian seafarers collectively earned an estimated USD 6.5 billion in foreign exchange through wages and remittances. This figure vividly illustrates the financial impact of seafarers, bolstering the nation's foreign exchange reserves and contributing to economic stability.**

**Seafarers' Economic**

## Contribution: An Influx of US Dollars

One of the most noteworthy aspects of seafarers' contribution to the Indian national economy is their ability to bring in substantial foreign exchange reserves. The compensation structure for seafarers is often denominated in major global currencies such as the US Dollar, Euro, or Pound Sterling. This practice results in a consistent inflow of foreign currency, primarily US Dollars, into the Indian economy.

Statistics underscore the magnitude of this inflow. According to the Directorate General of Shipping, India supplies approximately 10% of the

global seafaring workforce, with over 240,000 Indian seafarers serving aboard vessels worldwide. In 2021, Indian seafarers collectively earned an estimated USD 6.5 billion in foreign exchange through wages and remittances. This figure vividly illustrates the financial impact of seafarers, bolstering the nation's foreign exchange reserves and contributing to economic stability.

## A Catalyst for Multiple Industries in India

Beyond the direct injection of foreign currency, seafarers also catalyze various ancillary industries within India, generating a ripple effect throughout the economy.

The wages earned by seafarers extend to their families and communities, fostering consumption and economic activity. This dynamic stimulates sectors such as retail, real estate, education, and healthcare, thereby spurring growth in both urban and rural areas.

For instance, the real estate sector experiences a notable surge as seafarers invest their earnings in homes and property, contributing to property development and construction. Similarly, the education and healthcare sectors witness a boost as seafarers invest in the well-being and education of their families. The multiplier effect of seafarers' earnings ripples through

the economy, generating employment opportunities and enhancing overall economic vitality.

## Supporting Maritime Education and Training

Seafarers' contributions to the Indian national economy extend beyond their immediate earnings. The maritime industry requires a highly skilled workforce to operate vessels, manage ports, and maintain maritime infrastructure. To meet these demands, seafarers often invest in continuous professional development, training, and education.

In recent years, India has emerged as a hub for maritime education and training, attracting students and professionals

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## Seafarers' Contribution to the Indian National Economy ..... From Page : 2

from around the world. Indian seafarers, with their wealth of experience, contribute significantly to this educational ecosystem by serving as mentors, trainers, and educators. Their involvement enhances the quality of maritime education, strengthens India's position as a maritime education destination, and, in turn, generates revenue through tuition fees and related services.

### Challenges and Opportunities

Despite their substantial contributions, seafarers also face a unique set of challenges, including prolonged periods of separation from their families, demanding work environments, and evolving regulations. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these challenges, with crew changes and repatriation

becoming complex logistical undertakings.

However, these challenges also present opportunities for India to enhance its support for seafarers. By investing in enhanced welfare measures, promoting work-life balance, and addressing regulatory concerns, India can further elevate its reputation as a seafarer-friendly nation. Such initiatives would not only bolster the well-being of

seafarers but also attract more individuals to join the maritime workforce, thereby amplifying the sector's contributions to the economy.

### Conclusion

Seafarers stand as unsung heroes of the Indian national economy, driving the maritime industry forward and enriching the nation's economic fabric. Their role in facilitating global trade,

injecting foreign exchange reserves, and catalyzing various industries cannot be overstated. As India continues to expand its maritime reach and influence, acknowledging and nurturing the contributions of seafarers becomes crucial. By supporting their well-being, investing in maritime education, and creating an enabling environment, India can ensure that its seafaring workforce remains a cornerstone of economic growth and stability for years to come.

### TERMINAL NEWS

## APM Terminals Pipavav starts VLGC operations



APM Terminals Pipavav commenced very large gas carrier (VLGC) operations with the maiden berthing of MT Jag Viraat earlier this month.

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

“**M**T Jag Viraat, owned by Great Eastern Shipping Company, is a VLGC vessel with an impressive 230 metres length and 37 metres beam, arrival draft of 8.2 metres and a displacement of 47,260 MT,” says an official release from APM Terminals Pipavav.

The VLGC vessel loaded cargo from Ruwais, ADNOC refinery jetty, and discharged 21,907 tonnes at Pipavav for major three public sector undertakings – Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation

and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, the release added. “With a major shift in all-India LPG imports to VLGC vessels from earlier medium gas carrier (MGC) ships, the VLGC handling capability at APM Terminals Pipavav becomes critically important, allowing oil marketing companies to maximise LPG imports efficiently and safely.”

Girish Aggarwal, Managing Director, APM Terminals Pipavav says: “We are proud to welcome the maiden VLGC vessel at APM Terminals Pipavav. The demand for LPG is increasing as the Indian households are shifting

## Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

### at RL Institute of Nautical Sciences, Madurai

**RL** Institute of Nautical Sciences, one of the reputed Maritime Training Institutes, established in 1999 proudly raised the flag commemorating 77th Independence Day. Under the central government initiative, the Institute hoists the national flag/s all over the campus.



Students and Faculty of RLINS proudly raised the flag commemorating 77th Independence Day. Under the central government initiative, the Institute hoists the national flag/s all over the campus.

to LPG as household fuel, thanks to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna. This feat reinforces our unwavering commitment to offer world-class infrastructure and services to our valued customers. The introduction of the VLGC-compliant berth facility will help us bring in large vessels with larger parcel size to get economies of scale. Our DFC-compliant LPG rakes help in distributing LPG cargo to the remote

hinterland safely via environment-friendly train connectivity. We look forward to contributing to the growth of India's energy sector through our on-going investments in infrastructure development.”

APM Terminals Pipavav announced the development of a dedicated VLGC-compliant LPG berth in March 2023 with readiness expected by 2025 along with the expansion of the LPG terminal capacity

by its terminal partner Aegis Vopak Terminal. The expanded terminal capacity is set to handle up to 3.20 million tonnes, the release added.

**APM Terminals Pipavav's current annual cargo handling capacity includes 1.35 million TEU containers, 250,000 passenger cars, two million tonnes of liquid bulk and four million tonnes of dry bulk.**