



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

# Sagar Sandesh

Maritime Tabloid English Weekly E-Paper

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## Seafarers are the frontline workers providing essentials to the whole world: Capt. Abhijit Chattopadhyay



**Capt. Abhijit Chattopadhyay** - Executive Advisor to MOL Maritime (India) Pvt Limited and Director & Vice Chairman of FOSMA speaks about the challenges ahead for the Ship Owners/Managers, RPSL agents & Administration

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Covid -19, the pandemic has created unprecedented challenges in front of the entire world. Almost every country in the globe has been affected by this virus. Some have so far escaped mildly but most faced it severely. Almost all the countries have taken measures like lockdown, stopping/restricting incoming/outgoing flights and strict measures for movement of people to stop spread of the virus beyond control.

### These lockdown measures have put serious hurdles to the Ship Owners/Manager

Businesses have been badly impacted by these measures & shipping is no exception. Like every business shipping too is people driven & these lockdown measures have put serious hurdles to the Ship Owners/Managers & RPSL companies carrying out crew changes,

which is integral part of smooth running of a vessel. Seafarers who have completed their service tenure on board in February/ March of this year are unable to get their relief and be with their family & seafarers waiting to join ships are unable to join.

### My salute to all the seafarers on board the ships for understanding the seriousness of situation & carrying out their duties diligently in this unprecedented difficult times.

On the shore front, the Owners Managers, RPSL companies, FOSMA, MASSA, INSA etc have been in continuous touch with the Director General of Shipping & Shipping Ministry to find ways to effect crew changes.

### We are thankful to DG Shipping, Shipping Ministry & MHA for issuing guidelines & SOPs to carry

### out crew changes in Indian ports & anchorages

We are thankful to DG Shipping, Shipping Ministry & MHA for issuing guidelines & SOPs to carry out crew changes in Indian ports & anchorages. Even to conduct crew changes within India, we are facing severe difficulties including crossing state borders or local quarantine regulations of a particular

state. In spite of these difficulties at least some crew changes are taking place within Indian ports. But a large section of seafarers work on board foreign vessels & many of them do not call Indian ports. So far no proper arrangements of flights are available which an RPSL can use to send joining seafarer and/or bring back the signed off seafarers. Air India has started operating Vande Bharat flights, which could be useful for bringing stranded seafarers from various countries but not suitable for making crew changes especially when every crew movement is subject to the local regulations in force in the country of landing, joining or signing off.

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## Karnataka bans entry of people from Kerala Tamil Nadu Maharashtra and Gujarat for 14 days

# BANNED

BENGALURU  
Sagar Sandesh News Bureau

People from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are barred from entering Karnataka for the next 14 days, the state chief minister B S Yediyurappa has said.

He has however exempted neighboring Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Goa from the ban order.

While Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have high incidence of coronavirus cases, analysts are taken aback by the ban order on people from Kerala, the state which has reported the minimum number of cases in the country.

**There will be a complete lockdown on May 24th**

Yediyurappa said there will be a complete lockdown on May 24th with the provision of essential services only. There will be strict lockdown measures in containment zones and economic activities will be permitted in other areas.

The chief minister said state transport corporation buses and private buses will run as will trains running within the state. All shops will be allowed to open, it added.

The Centre has extended the nationwide lockdown to May 31 and said that movement of passengers would be allowed only with mutual consent between the states during the fourth phase.

Karnataka has reported more than 1,100 patients of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and more than 30 deaths.

## Seafarers are the frontline workers .....

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**Seafarers are the frontline workers providing essentials to the whole world**

Seafarers are the frontline workers providing essentials to the whole world. In a situation like this, we cannot remain helpless to the seafarer's basic expectation of being relieved after tenure of duties. Every Government & other related organisations must consider movement of seafarers a Priority and take urgent steps including special arrangements for visas or visa exemptions. It is of utmost importance that DG Shipping in co-ordination/consultation with RPSL companies & other related ministries, urgently find ways to send the seafarers from India to different ports around the world & bring off signed seafarers back to India. Otherwise with every

passing day the mental health of the over worked seafarers can take its toll. Also with each passing day, the number of seafarers needed to be replaced & relieved will keep swelling and it will be more & more difficult to stabilize the situation.

**The challenges in front of the Administration are multifold**

The challenges in front of the Administration are multifold. Carrying out crew changes is definitely one of the most urgent on the list. I on behalf of the industry thank DG shipping for taking prompt initiative in early April to extend 6 months validity to all expiring CoC, CoP, STCW courses between 23rd March & 1st October and CDC between 1st February to 1st October. This has eased the pressure on RPSL's

to maintain valid documentation for the on board seafarers. However the Administration has many other challenges in hand which too are extremely urgent. The Administration has to be on war footing & consider guidelines for imparting online education & online examination as both these have come to a complete stand still. Seafarers down for examination are required to complete various classroom & modular courses & prepare for examinations. Therefore the need of the hour is to find a methodology to allow on line approved education. Also prepare to increase the number of examinees per month once the lockdown is eased and normal activities resume even with some restrictions, to avoid loss of opportunities for Indian seafarers.

## We can make India a self-reliant nation. We will make India self-reliant



When ethics are filled with duty, the culmination of diligence, the capital of skills, then who can stop India from becoming self-reliant? We can make India a self-reliant nation. We will make India self-reliant: PM Modi in his address to the nation on May 12, 2020.

**Corona virus: Our great resolve will help overcome this crisis.**

For over four months the global community has been in the fight against Corona virus. During this period more than 42 lakh people across the world have been infected with Corona. More than 2.75 Lakh people have died tragically. In India too, people have lost their near and dear ones. I express my heartfelt condolences to all.

Friends, a virus has destroyed the world... This crisis is unthinkable as well as unprecedented for mankind.

However-getting exasperated, losing heart or getting shattered, is not acceptable to the mankind. We have to remain vigilant, closely monitor it, follow the rules of engagement in such a war, save ourselves and move ahead. Today, when the world is in crisis, we must strengthen our resolve. Our great resolve will help overcome this crisis.

**AtmaNirbhar Bharat, "Self-reliant India" is the only path**

The state of the world today teaches us that a (AtmaNirbhar Bharat) "Self-reliant India"

is the only path. It is said in our scriptures - EshahPanthah That is - self-sufficient India.

**India turned this crisis into an opportunity**

When the Corona crisis started, there was not a single PPE kit made in India. The N-95 masks were produced in small quantity in India. Today we are in a situation to produce 2 lakh PPE and 2 lakh N-95 masks daily. We were able to do this because India turned this crisis into an opportunity.

This vision of India - turning crisis into opportunity - is going to prove equally effective for our resolve of self-reliant India.

**The meaning of the word self-reliance: VasudhaivaKutumbakam**

Today the meaning of the word self-reliance has changed in the global scenario. The debate on Human Centric Globalization versus Economy Centralized Globalization is on. India's fundamental thinking provides a ray of hope to world. The culture and tradition of India speaks of self-reliance and the soul is VasudhaivaKutumbakam.

India does not advocate self-centric arrangements when it comes to self-reliance. India's self-reliance is ingrained in the happiness, cooperation and peace of the world.

This is the culture which believes in the welfare of the world, for all the living creatures and the one which considers the whole world as a family.

India's goals and actions impact the global welfare.

Today, when India is making rapid strides in its progress, it is still committed to the goal of global welfare. Remember, the Y2K crisis at the beginning of this century. Technology experts from India pulled the world out of that crisis. Today we have the resources, we have the power, and we have the best talent in the world.

We will make the best products, will improve our quality further, make the supply chain more modern, we can do this and we will definitely do it.

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