



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Sagar Sandesh

Maritime Tabloid English Weekly E-Paper

In association with R L Institute of Nautical Sciences, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. | RNI No. TNENG/2012/41759 | Wednesday, July 08, 2020 | Voyage 9 Wave 23

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Capt. Philip Mathews- Senior Vice President, Seven Island shipping Ltd; EX GM/SCI and Past Chairman CMMI

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News Service

After having proudly served our national shipping line, The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd for nearly 40 years, today I serve another wonderful Indian Company, **The Seven Islands Shipping Ltd, (SISL): India's fastest growing Shipping Company.** Dream well accomplished by a Master Mariner, **Capt. Thomas Wilfred Pinto, who has been the Chairman and Managing Director since 2004.** Capt. Pinto leads from the front fully involved, with his boundless energy and determination to achieve targets. Nothing can hinder his determination and can-do attitude to accomplish his dream. All employees are to him his family. His concern for the welfare of seafarers is amazing. A commitment to all employees is proven by a track record of earnings increasing year after year since inception. A **"Made in**

India" Shipping Company which every Maritime Professional must look up to and try to emulate. You can definitely make it happen in India.

It has been an experience of a lifetime to deal with crew manning matters during these days of the COVID 19 pandemic. Crew change in these times have been extremely trying for seafarers and also the crew managers in the shore offices. For the low-key Indian Ship-owners, it has been a harrowing time, as for others, with all offices working nearly round the clock. We changed our crew in small numbers at all Indian ports permitting crew changes. The Crew Change operations on Indian vessels were commenced in full swing after the DGS Order 12 of 2020 on 22nd April 2020 which paved the way. Initial days were extremely difficult with hurdles in crossing most state border check posts as all transit were by road. Seafarers were required to spend over twelve hours at certain state borders. At some border check

post "Home Quarantine" stamps were put on seafarers' hands when traveling to join vessels.

We have been facing issues on more or less on a daily basis, with frequent changes in the rules of transit, quarantine, and COVID Test requirements by State Governments, Ports, etc. Over the last around three months, my company with just 19 tankers managed to have over 300 plus crew

changes. While the number may look insignificant, one must appreciate that for Indians Ship-owners with vessels plying on the Indian Coast these numbers mean over 200 separate operations with continuous monitoring of the seafarers transit from home to ship and vice versa dealing with various authorities.

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International flights to resume from August one in Indian airports



International scheduled flights on select routes by the competent authority on a case to case basis

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News Bureau

International flights landing or take off from Indian airports will commence on August first according to the latest communication from the Directorate General of Civil aviation.

The aviation regulator DGCA said that it was extending the suspension of scheduled international passenger flights in the country till July 31 but added that some international scheduled services on selected routes may be permitted on a case to case basis.

Scheduled international passenger flights were suspended in India on March 23 due to the coronavirus.

Modifying its June 26 circular that stated that scheduled international passenger flights will remain suspended till July

15, 2020, the regulator in its order dated July third stated it has decided to extend the deadline to July 31, 2020.

Air India and other private domestic airlines have been operating unscheduled international repatriation flights under the Vande Bharat Mission, which was started on May 6 by the Central government.

International scheduled flights on selected routes by the competent authority on a case to case basis

However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case to case basis," said the circular by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

India resumed scheduled domestic passenger flights on May 25, after a gap of two months.

TOGETHER WE OVERCOME! - By Capt. Philip Mathews

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Crew travel costs have been astronomical with many road transits across the nation. The commencement of air travel was a relief. Happy to state that all our shore employees worked without looking at the clock to bring as much relief as possible to our seafarers. Every relief accomplished was a great joy.

There has hardly been any disruption in the movement of Indian ships due to this pandemic. Our seafarers and their families deserve special appreciation for their support to the industry in these trying times with hardly any murmur. Seafarers, beyond doubt, have been our heroes as frontline warriors. We have been in constant contact with the families of our seafarers to reassure them of the safety of their beloved ones.

It was the timely intervention of the office of the DGS especially Dr. Capt. Daniel Joseph, DGS with his extraordinary zeal to help seafarers which saved the day on most occasions whenever we faced problems in placing seafarers onboard our vessels. Amongst Indian Seafarers and shore executives, commonly they say "God is there for seafarers and then there is Capt. Daniel

Joseph". Another name which comes to my mind is that of Capt. Ashwin Solanki of the Gujarat Maritime Board. There was practically nothing that these two gentlemen would not resolve. I also take this opportunity to thank Shri. Anil Devli, CEO, INSA who also stood with us always ever ready to offer any assistance be it day or middle of the night with any authority.

Our entire maritime fraternity, Marine Pilots, PHOs, Agents, cargo surveyors, Vetting inspectors, IRS, MMDs, DGS, MOS and all others involved have all made significant contributions to ensure that movement of our seafarers and ships. Our Nautical Advisor Capt. K. P. Jayakumar, Chief Surveyor Shri. S. Barik, Shri. Amitabh Kumar ji, DG, IRS and all their officers were always very enthusiastic to assist and ensure that seafarers and shipping are not affected due to the pandemic related issues. This has made us all realize in true terms the reality of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam"; that today the entire maritime industry is a family. The boat does not go forward if each one rows their own way. Every Constituent of the industry stood together to

take on the issues encountered due to the pandemic and worked to achieve the objective be it Surveys, Certification issues, online education, examinations & certification, SOPs for Crew Changes, Chartering Flights, Crew Changes at Anchorages, etc. A very positive outcome of this new normal. It is not a surprise that the framework of Maritime Vision 2030 is being drawn up during this period. Various measures have been initiated to make India an attractive Investment destination for shipping. Crew welfare measure initiated through the SWFS especially for COVID affected seafarers deserves special mention. Decision making has become much faster. A positive outcome. One gets a sure shot feeling that India is changing.

No one ever dreamt that what we are facing today would occur in our lifetime. This pandemic has taught us great lessons. We must learn from the lessons learned and be better prepared to avoid or face nature's fury. I am sure this will also pass. Our planet will change for the better. Good luck and Godspeed.

Shipping Ministry keen on use of RoRo and Ro Pax vessels for Transport of Coastal Cargo and people within the country



Ro Ro Ropax vessel (Representational image)

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News Bureau

Shipping Ministry is keen to maximize the use of RoRo and Ro Pax vessels for increased transport of cargo especially Automobiles and people along the country's coastline and the issue figured in the Coastal Shipping Committee of the National Shipping Board.

At its meeting held recently,

Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asked the Committee to examine the feasibility of using these vessels to effectively increase transportation of cargo and people along the Coastline.

The National Shipping Board, under the directions of its Chairperson, Dr Malini Shankar, has constituted various Committees to look at specific issues relating to development of the Maritime Trade in India. One such committee is tasked with examining the development and usage of coastal shipping as well as inland waterways.

Earlier efforts to run profitable services have met with limited success

The Committee noted that some earlier attempts have been made to try and commence such RoRo and Ro-pax services

between two Indian ports. In fact, some of the members have first-hand knowledge in the provision of such services. However, earlier efforts to run profitable services have met with limited success. The committee decided that it would specifically ascertain and prepare a report on issues relating to operations of RoRo and/or Ro-pax services along the Indian coast.

It has invited suggestions, opinions, ideas, updates of hurdles faced or likely to be faced as well from the industry and called for identifying solutions, all of which would aid shipowners, cargo owners, ship operators, trucking companies, fleet operators and the general trade at large to be able to carry out the effective and efficient movement of cargo and passengers using RoRo and Ro-pax vessels.



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SAGAR SANDESH - Maritime Tabloid English Weekly E-Paper
Published by Dr R Lakshminpathy (Owner) on behalf of
Professional Publications (P) Ltd, "Sriram", 27, Sathyasai Nagar, Madurai - 625 003.
Published at "Lakshmi", 21, Sathyasai Nagar, Madurai - 625 003, Tamilnadu.
RNI No. TNENG/2012/41759, Postal Registration No. TN/MA/140/2018-2020.
Licence No. TN/WPP-115/SR/2018-2020.