



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

# Sagar Sandesh

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## FFFAI celebrates Foundation Day -completed 60 years



FFFAI Chairman Mr Shankar Shinde and Immediate Past Chairman Mr AV Vijayakumar lighting the inauguration lamp of the Foundation Day celebration



FFFAI Chairman Mr Shankar Shinde along with other OBs and EC Members during the Foundation Day celebration on Dec 2, 2022 in Mumbai

**The Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI) Chairman Mr. Shankar Shinde** conveys his sincere thanks to all the 28 Member Associations and more than 6500 members of FFFAI from across the country for their active contribution and support to the **60 years journey of the Federation.**

He also conveys his gratitude to other trade associations, chambers of commerce, logistics industry stakeholders, Customs Authority, and different Ministries of the Government of India for their kind support to FFFAI during the last 60 years. **FFFAI completed 60 years of its inception on December 2, 2022.** This year the Foundation Day celebration program was organized in Mumbai. The Federation will organize the Diamond Jubilee celebration program in early 2023.

"It is a proud privilege for me

to thank you all on the occasion of celebrating the Foundation Day of FFFAI on December 2, 2022, completing the 60 years of its inception. At the outset let me take this opportunity once again to congratulate each member and leader of FFFAI for being part of this 60 years successful journey," he said.

Speaking on the occasion in presence of other OBs and EC members who attended the event from across the country Mr. Shinde said that FFFAI is now well recognized by the government of India as well as the society at large as a vital entity of the end-to-end logistics/supply chain industry. "Our collective wisdom, hard work, and strong organizational strength of FFFAI supported by 28 Member Associations from across India have been the key forces behind the recognition through various

initiatives, policy announcements, and of late, by the National Logistics Policy announced by the Government of India," he said.

He also underscored the contribution of past leaders of FFFAI in strengthening the Federation. "I take this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude and homage to all the past leaders of FFFAI, many of whom left us for their heavenly abode. Presently we are standing on solid ground as our leaders have built strong pillars in institutionalizing the Federation to achieve greater heights," the FFFAI chairman added.

He pointed out that taking a cue from the predecessors the present leadership of FFFAI is constantly monitoring and analyzing the entire ecosystem of the logistics industry in consultation with domain experts. "Accordingly, at present, our focus is to up-skill the domain

knowledge with effective utilization of emerging technologies. Our training arm IIFF is leaving no stone unturned in this regard. In addition, FFFAI has strengthened its Women and Youth Wings to woo women and young entrepreneurs to this highly potential and vibrant sector," he added..

At the same time, FFFAI is in constant dialogue with the Government, other Trade Associations/Chambers of Commerce, and logistics industry stakeholders for creating a collective force for this sunrise sector.

**Mr. Shinde** further pointed out that in pursuance of its aims and objectives, the FFFAI plays a constructive role in maintaining a constant rapport with the Customs, Port Trusts, Airport Authorities,

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## FFFAI celebrates Foundation Day.....From Page : 1

Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), Central Warehousing Corporation, Central Excise, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), etc. to make its own contribution in the formulation of Policy and administrative measures and simplification of various procedures. For this constructive role, the Federation has been accorded official recognition and is represented on several officials, and semi-official forums of various central ministries like the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and other Trade Bodies.

Being a national apex body of Custom Brokers, FFFAI is being invited by the Ministry of Finance to give a presentation on the Union pre-budget for

formulating the policy structure in direct and indirect tax. FFFAI comments are invited for the SCOPE Session, CCG meeting held by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Directorate General of Export Promotion. FFFAI is the only logistic association to be part of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation which is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

FFFAI was entrusted with the execution of the INSTC Project by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and the TIR Convention project through the Ministry of External Affairs which was very successful.

FFFAI launched its own training and education wing in the name of the Indian Institute of Freight Forwarders (IIFF) on 7th January 2005 by the hands of Mr. Issa Baluch

– President of FIATA and Mr. P. K. Srivastava – then CMD of Shipping Corporation of India. IIFF is the only institute in the SAARC region to conduct Diploma course in Freight Forwarding which is approved by FIATA.

FFFAI has also strengthened its international networking and intervention in different international issues through the IFCBA (International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations) and FIATA (International Federation of Freight Forwarders). FFFAI's outreach holding important positions provided its members an opportunity to expand their horizons with support from these International associations.

"It is evident from facts and pertinent to highlight that the recognition of FFFAI comes from the business integrity and

working together with the Customs department, Government of India as partners in facilitating EXIM trade. This creates a greater sense of responsibility to the Nation and Fraternity we belong to for an opportunity to serve through FFFAI Platform," Mr. Shinde pointed out.

The FFFAI Chairman appreciated the support from CBIC Team for their continued proactive initiatives to keep the logistics wheel moving through contactless, paperless online initiatives which helped a lot, the transformation from manual to digital was commendable and in the true spirit of facilitation measures.

Mr. Shinde highly appreciated the recent initiatives of the Government of India viz CBLMS, 'PM Gati Shakti', 'LEADS Report', LPPT, 'Faceless Assessment', 'Turant Customs', 'SWIFT', 'DPD', AEO, etc

aiming towards fast cargo clearance, Ease of Doing Business and improvement of Logistics Performance Index of the country as per world standard.

Sharing details on the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Association the FFFAI Chairman informed the event will be held during early 2023. Detailed programs would be intimated very soon, which would be fascinating one. "On behalf of the Office Bearers and Executive Members of FFFAI I appeal to all FFFAI members to make serious efforts to make the Diamond Jubilee a historic event and FFFAI a force to be reckoned with. I also appeal to all to further strengthen the Federation by increasing its membership for the larger interest of the ex-im trade as well as logistics industry in the country," Mr Shinde concluded.



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# MARINE NEWS



"Failure is a lesson learned; success is a lesson applied."

## Shrimp farming in Gulf of Mannar



Shrimp seeds being sea ranched

RAMESHWARAM  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

A total of 3.1 million green tiger shrimp seeds (PL-20) were sea ranched at Mandapam in Gulf of Mannar on December 20<sup>th</sup> under the Project entitled "Sea ranching of Green tiger shrimp (*Penaeus-semisulcatus*) Post Larvae

(PL) in Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu"

**The project is funded by Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India under the Central Sector Scheme.**

The shrimp seeds were released by Mr Abdul Kadhar Jailani,

Assistant Director of Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare, Mandapam, Smt. Gomathi, Sub Inspector of Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare, Mandapam Fishermen Association Leaders in presence of Dr. G. Tamilmani, Head - in - Charge & Principal Investigator of the project and the staff of the Mandapam Regional Centre.

The fishermen thanked the Government of India and ICAR-CMFRI for such an initiative and expressed that this activity will be helpful in replenishing the green tiger shrimp stock.

A total of 36.54 million green tiger shrimp seeds were sea ranched in Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar since the inception of the Project in February, 2022. The sea ranching program was coordinated by Dr. B. Johnson, Senior Scientist of the Centre.

## CMD CONCOR inaugurated warehouse in Kakinada

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Shri V. Kalyana Rama, CMD (CONCOR) has inaugurated warehouse measuring 5075 Sq. Mtrs developed in Phase I at

Container Corporation of India limited (CONCOR) Multi Modal Logistics Park – Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, followed by address to trade fraternity and media present at the event.



Shri V. Kalyana Rama, CMD (CONCOR) inaugurates warehouse measuring 5075 Sq. Mtrs



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## MARINE NEWS



"Failure is a lesson learned; success is a lesson applied."

## Anti Piracy laws extended to Exclusive Economic Zone in the Indian coast

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

**The Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, 2019, which was passed in the Lower House of the Parliament (Lok Sabha) on December 19th, will provide legal aid to combat piracy in territorial waters as well as Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and high seas. The mandatory death sentence prescribed in the draft bill has however been amended by the government to life sentence for the offenses committed under the law.**

The Lok Sabha, passed the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, 2019, that seeks to provide effect legal aid



Safeguarding India's EEZ

to combat piracy not just in territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone (which are over 200 nautical miles from the coastline) but also on the high seas.

**"The amendment provided official punishment has**

**for life.** Earlier, there was provision for death. Now, the provision for death has been amended as per government amendment to punishment to death or with imprisonment for life, if such a person is committing the act of piracy and causes death or an attempt thereof.

The concern that there will be a mandatory death sentence is no longer relevant in view of the government amendment which actually provides for death or life imprisonment depending on the nature of the circumstances," said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Lok Sabha while moving the bill in Lok Sabha.

Taking part, organizing, aiding, supporting, attempting to commit and directing others to take part in piracy will be punishable for up to 14 years of imprisonment.

**India's security and economic well-being is inextricably linked to**

the Sea and Maritime security is a prerequisite with more than 90 per cent of the country's trade through sea routes and more than 80 per cent of hydrocarbon requirements being seaborne.

This bill will fill the gaps in laws against offence of piracy. At present India does not have a separate domestic legislation on piracy and provisions of IPC pertaining to armed robbery are invoked to prosecute pirates apprehended by Indian coast guards. The bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee in December 2019 and was proposed with amendments by government in July 2022.

## World will overcome challenges to keep trading, MSC CEO tells Conference of Paris

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**A**t a time when the contraction of global economic growth, high energy prices and inflation are dominating the public agenda, a high-level meeting of CEOs and government officials in Paris in mid-December offered a few glimpses of optimism and underscored the continued importance of global trade.

Commenting on the macroeconomic factors impacting global markets, MSC CEO Soren Toft explained how MSC – as the world's largest container shipping line – has the size and scale to navigate this environment and keep on investing for the future to ensure that populations keep benefiting from international commerce.

**"The future economy will still be globalised, even if some supply chains are a little more distributed,"** Soren told the Conference of Paris in a panel session on 'Charting a New Economy'. "Trade has brought hundreds of millions out of poverty, enabled local producers to tap international markets and empowered local communities through economic prosperity."

The conference panel agreed that production costs are high on the agenda of CEOs as energy costs and inflation impact all industries. Companies are unlikely to make immediate fundamental changes to producing goods in Asia, even if there have been some cases of "re-shoring" and "near-shoring" in the supply chain, Soren said. Although Asia remains the world's manufacturing hub, within a couple of decades, Africa will in the future play a greater role in production for the world, he added.

Soren also outlined MSC's approach to sustainability and how



MSC CEO Soren Toft

MSC is contributing to efforts to decarbonize the industry, step by step

**"For MSC sustainability is a top priority and we are already preparing our fleet for the fuels of the future, always heading towards our net zero 2050 target,"** Soren Toft CEO of MSC.

Remarking on the lessons learned from the pandemic, Soren noted that the global supply chain disruption has revealed to many people for the first time the important job **that men and women do to keep the world moving and that seafarers and logistics workers should be commended for the important jobs they do.**



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## East coast ports too have advantage to shippers to South America

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

With extended support from its service partner - CONCOR, HMM has launched a new, direct rail service ex ICD Tughlakabad to Kattupalli Port, to connect to its direct FIL service to East Coast South America.

**HMM has always strived to provide Best in Class service to its valuable**



**customers and this recent endeavor has added another feather to its cap, which is especially beneficial to shippers in North India.**

This direct rail

connection to Kattupalli will reduce the transit time by a staggering 14 days as against the normal rail route to Mundra Port for onward feeder connection to Kattupalli.

The famous FIL service is the only direct service connecting India (Kattupalli) to East Coast South America. **Now, with the direct rail connection, it would be a major boost to the trade.**

With 2 weekly trains being offered ex ICD Tughlakabad, the transit time to Kattupalli is a mere 5 days, as per the release.

North India shippers can expect their shipments to reach Brazil under 30 days using this new rail connection, which is the fastest transit time available across the industry. The CONCOR Chief General Manager, New Delhi appreciated the efforts of

HMM to bring yet another gateway port for the North India exporter, facilitating speedy vessel connections for their export containers. He added that CONCOR stands committed to help expand its rail network to improve logistics in India in keeping with the vision, aim and policies of the Government of India.

**HMM continues to provide best logistics solutions to North India exporters, the release added.**

## EXIM NEWS

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Global agency Fitch Ratings on Tuesday 20 Dec affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook. This is the last investment rating. However, stable outlook means rating to see status quo for some time.

In June, the agency had upgraded the outlook to stable from negative. All other agencies have given similar ratings, though the outlook differs.

Giving reasons about affirmation, the agency

## Fitch affirms India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-', outlook stable



**Stable outlook means rating to see status quo for some time.**

acknowledged robust growth outlook compared to peers and still-resilient external finances, which have supported India in navigating the large external shocks during the past year. However, "these are offset by India's weak public finances, illustrated

by high deficits and debt relative to peers, as well as lagging structural indicators, including World Bank governance indicators and GDP per capita," it said.

**The agency has estimated economy to grow at 7 per cent during the current fiscal, but likely to slow down in the next.** Further it expects consumption growth to moderate as pent-up demand fades.

The agency has attributed robust medium-term growth outlook is a key supporting factor for the rating.

A clear improvement in corporate and bank balance sheets, which were under strain prior to the pandemic, is likely to facilitate a steady acceleration in investment in the coming years. "Nevertheless, risks remain given dynamics in labour force participation, the lagging rural sector recovery, and uneven reform implementation record," it said.

The agency felt that the financial sector risks continue to ease on the back of the strong and durable economic recovery

However, it termed

**current level of fiscal deficit 'high'.**

Talking about factors that could lead to negative rating action/downgrade, it has listed rising general government debt/GDP ratio and a structurally weaker real GDP growth outlook. However, implementation of a credible medium-term fiscal strategy to bring general government debt down and higher medium-term investment and growth rates without the creation of macroeconomic imbalances could lead to upgrade.

## Nepal bans import of medicines from 16 Indian companies

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Department of Drug Administration has published a list of 16 Indian pharmaceutical companies, including Divya Pharmacy which manufactures Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali products, that failed to comply with the World Health Organization's (WHO) good manufacturing practices.

Publication of the list by the department, the national regulatory body of the drugs markets, both allopathic and ayurveda, means that **medicines manufactured by those companies cannot be imported to Nepal**, according to the Kathmandu Post daily.

"After inspection of the manufacturing facilities of the pharmaceutical companies, which had applied to export their products to our country, we have published the list of the companies that do not comply with the WHO's good manufacturing practices," said Santosh KC, a Department spokesperson.

**Good manufacturing practice is a system of ensuring that products are constantly produced and controlled according to the set quality standards**, said the news report, it is designed to minimise the risks involved in any pharmaceutical production that cannot be eliminated through testing the final product.

In April and July, the Department



**Banned products fail to comply with WHO good manufacturing practices.**

had sent a team of drug inspectors to India to probe the manufacturing facilities of pharmaceutical companies that had applied to supply their products to Nepal.

Besides Divya Pharmacy, the list also names Radiant Parenterals Ltd., Mercury Laboratories Ltd., Alliance Biotech, Captabiotec, Aglowmed Limited, Zee Laboratories Ltd, Daffodils

Pharmaceuticals Ltd, GLS pharma Limited, Unijules Life Science Ltd, Concept Pharmaceuticals Pvt, Shree Anand Life Sciences Ltd, IPCA laboratories Ltd, Cadila Healthcare Ltd, Dial Pharmaceuticals, Aglowmed Limited and Mackur laboratories Ltd.

A few months ago, the Department had alerted drug inspectors to step up surveillance to prevent the import and sales of cough syrups manufactured by an Indian pharmaceutical company after scores of children in Gambia died of kidney failure upon allegedly consuming the syrups.

**The move followed a global alert by the World Health Organisation about four cough syrups that could have links to the deaths of the children in July, August, and September in the West African country.**



## India and Indonesia discuss connectivity with Andaman Islands

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

India and Indonesia on discussed the possibility of developing connectivity between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Aceh province as part of efforts to boost trade and tourism between the two countries.

The discussion assumes significance with the government going in for a massive container terminal at the Nicobar Islands a few hundred kilometers away from Ache province in Indonesia brushing aside concerns from environmentalists. The government has put the Colachel transshipment terminal for which the



Andaman and Nicobar Islands

union cabinet had given in principle clearance way back in 2015 in deep freeze for reasons best known to the government.

The issue figured in the second meeting of the joint task force created by the two sides to develop

connectivity between India's strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Aceh.

**The meeting was held in Port Blair on December 19th.**

Officials of the countries

discussed ways to promote trade, tourism and people-to-people contacts between Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Aceh to unleash the economic potential of both regions. They also reviewed the status of projects for development of port-related infrastructure in and around Sabang in Aceh, the external affairs ministry said in a statement.

At the meeting, the heads of the two delegations "took stock of the progress made and the challenges faced in developing connectivity" between Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Aceh since the first meeting of the joint task force in 2019, the statement said.

The joint task force agreed to enhance opportunities for interaction between business chambers and potential investors on both sides in order to improve trade and investment.

The joint task force also discussed ways to enhance academic cooperation and cultural linkages between Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Aceh.

The development of connectivity between Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Aceh is a key element of the "Shared Vision of Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific", which was finalised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo four years ago.

### MARINE NEWS

## Petronet LNG to Set up Floating LNG Terminal at Gopalpur

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The largest liquefied natural gas importer in India, Petronet LNG Ltd, would invest Rs 2,306 crore to build a floating LNG receiving facility at Gopalpur port in Odisha. According to a tweet from the company, it has inked a contract with Gopalpur Ports Ltd. for the facility, which would have an annual capacity of around 4 million tonnes.

"We are pleased to announce that @PetronetLNGLtd is moving forward with establishing its presence on the east coast of India by signing a term sheet with Gopalpur Ports Limited on December 14, 2022 for the establishment and operation of LNG facility at Gopalpur port in Odisha," it stated.

**The company's board had approved the expenditure last month for constructing the floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU)-based LNG terminal in Gopalpur.**

LNG is natural gas that has undergone supercooling, becoming a liquid with 1/600th the volume of a gas. This facilitates simple ship transit. It is converted back into gas at the receiving facility before being delivered to manufacturers to make fertiliser, produce electricity at power plants, or be converted into compressed



Gopalpur will be the third LNG terminal on the east coast

natural gas (CNG) for use in automobiles.

A combination of loan and equity would be used to fund Petronet's project in the Ganjam district of Odisha, which is anticipated to be operational by the end of 2025.

The Adani Group is constructing a facility at Dhamra port in collaboration with TotalEnergie of France, and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) operates a 5 million tonnes per year facility at Ennore in Tamil Nadu. Gopalpur will be the third LNG terminal on the east coast.

Petronet is owned by the state-owned companies IOC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), GAIL (India) Ltd., and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), which each control 12.5% of the company.

### EXIM NEWS

## Export of smart phones from India reach an all-time high



Nearly 40% of the Rs 50,000 crore worth of smart phones exported from India are iPhones

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Export of smart phone shipments from India particularly from Tamil Nadu and karnatka have crossed fifty thousand crore mark during first eight months of the current financial year an increase of over one hundred per cent over the corresponding period last year. The exports was rs 45,000 crores throughout last financial year.

The main contributors to this massive growth are Apple contract manufacturers – Foxconn, Pegatron (both located in

Tamil Nadu) and Wistron (located in Karnataka) – and Samsung.

**Nearly 40% of the Rs 50,000 crore worth of smart phones exported from India are iPhones,** which Apple exports to Europe, West Asia and Asian countries, except China.

Samsung and a range of small exporters, most of which are Indian device makers, contributed the remaining 60 per cent.

**Apple's vendors and Samsung are participants in the smart phone PLI scheme announced by the government in April 2020.**

## CONTAINER TERMINAL NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

## APM Terminals expands Truck Appointment System roll out

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

APM Terminals' new Truck Appointment System, piloted earlier this year, is going global with ongoing plans to roll this online service out further, reducing truck turn times, streamlining gate access and improving logistics planning worldwide.

The system, launched



APM Terminals' new Truck Appointment System, piloted earlier this year, is going global

in Monrovia last year, has been rolled out to the West Africa Container Terminal in Onne, and APM Terminals Yucatan. The standardised global solution means that further roll-out can progress quickly, using best-in-class technology.

Furthermore, APM Terminals Algeciras and Bahrain are scheduled for

the coming months, offering the system to their customers.

The Truck Appointment System (TAS) enables customers to schedule their own container drop-off and pick-up times, helping logistics managers to identify quiet and peak moments using a 'traffic light' system for time slots for improved planning.

"In this way, they can avoid, as well as reduce queues," pointed out APM Terminals in a statement.

## SEAFARER NEWS

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

New measures to improve conditions for seafarers, including those who have been abandoned, have been adopted at a meeting involving governments and maritime workers and employers' organizations.

Guidelines on how to deal with seafarer abandonment have been adopted by the first meeting of a joint International Labour Organization (ILO)-International Maritime Organization (IMO) Tripartite Working Group.

The Guidelines seek to address the significant rise in cases of abandonment of crews reported to the ILO, which have risen from less than 20 cases per year between 2011 to 2016, to 40 in 2019, 85 in 2020, 95 in 2021 and 114 cases as of mid-December 2022. The Guidelines aim to improve coordination among countries, including flag States, port States, States in which seafarers are national or resident, and States in which recruitment and placement services operate, in order to resolve abandonment cases more quickly, including getting seafarers paid and repatriated home to their families.

is a in

The new Guidelines draw on relevant ILO international labour standards, notably the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006), including its most recent amendments; an earlier joint ILO-IMO resolution adopted in 2001 (Resolution A.930(22)); relevant IMO international frameworks and

## Joint ILO-IMO Meeting Adopts Guidelines on Seafarer Abandonment



Appeal of the abandoned seafarers

agreements; and relevant trends and developments in regional and national law and practice.

The new Guidelines encourage flag States to verify, at least annually, the validity of this financial security. Port States are encouraged to pay particular attention to this financial security during their inspections of foreign ships that visit their ports. States where recruitment and placement services operate are also called upon to regularly verify that those services include a system to ensure the protection of the seafarers they recruit and place.

The new Guidelines set out procedures to be taken by States if a shipowner fails to fulfil their obligations to arrange and cover the cost of repatriation of seafarers, outstanding wages and other contracted entitlements, and the provision of essential needs, including medical care. In these circumstances seafarers are then considered abandoned.

These procedures include developing, in cooperation with seafarers' and shipowners' organizations, national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to explicitly define the liabilities and obligations of the competent authority and the

roles to be played by the various national stakeholders. These stakeholders include the relevant national seafarers' welfare boards, shipping agencies, seafarers' and shipowners' organizations, seafarer welfare organizations, seafarer recruitment and placement services, and others.

The ILO-IMO meeting also discussed the importance of the joint ILO-IMO database relating to abandoned seafarers, and the need to update and improve it.

Joint database on reported incidents of abandonment of seafarers (it includes all cases reported after 1 January 2004).

# Sagar Sandesh

Weekly Thrice E-Paper

is bringing out a colourful

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on the occasion of  
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## PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

"News is what somebody somewhere wants to suppress; all the rest is advertising." - Lord Northcliffe

# Port of Rotterdam to Allow Mixed Berthing

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Inland vessels carrying hazardous cargo will be allowed to berth at about 50 mixed berths in the port of Rotterdam. This will allow so-called cone ships to berth right next to each other and next to vessels without hazardous cargoes.

The Port of Rotterdam Authority has gained experience with this in a trial over the past year and a half. According to the Dutch port, both the Harbour Master of Rotterdam and the inland shipping industry have found the pilot to be very positive.



Mixed berthing will be officially allowed from the second week of January in the port of Rotterdam.

As there is a great need for more berth capacity in the port area, the Harbour Master is going to allow mixed berthing at some 50 berths.

The port authority thus anticipates the amendment of the Inland Waterways

Police Regulations (BPR) the ministry is currently working on. This amendment to the BPR describes the already existing authority to deviate from the safety distances between vessels carrying either one or two cones and

between vessels that do not carry hazardous cargo.

Also, in doing so, the ministry is drawing on the successful experience already gained in Rotterdam with mixed berthing. The amendment to the BPR is expected to come into force during 2023-2024.

**Mixed berthing is in line with the Port of Rotterdam Authority's policy of using the existing space in the port as efficiently as possible and creating more berths for inland shipping.**

Furthermore, the berths in the Rotterdam port area where mixed berthing will soon be allowed have been determined in consultation with the inland shipping

industry and the Safety Region, among others.

In more detail, to ensure safety, not all inland vessels are allowed to use mixed berths, and certain activities are also prohibited. These activities include smoking and activities involving open flames, work that could cause sparking or bunkering LNG or methanol.

Furthermore, a reporting requirement may also be imposed in certain cases, such as reporting the hazardous cargo in IVS-next (the Inland Shipping Information and Tracking System). All conditions under which mixed berthing will be allowed are set out in the Administrative Order 'Mixed Berthing' 2022.

# Ports in the east coast depend on Lorries to transport 90 per cent of cargo

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

India has a very high dependence on road transport for freight movement, which, in turn, makes the cost of logistics much higher than in several advanced economies. The ports in the East coast depend on truck movement to transport 90 per cent of the cargo as the railway connectivity is very poor. The ports include Chennai, Kamarajar Katupalli VOC port Tuticorin. CONCOR hardly has any service to connect these ports to the hinterland barring Bengaluru.

So logistics cost as a percentage of GDP is about 14 percent in India while it is in single digits in several Western economies. Also, the



India has a very high dependence on road transport for freight movement

average daily distance covered by a goods truck, usually loaded beyond capacity, in India is just about a fifth of that in the US. On return journeys, up to 40 percent of these trucks are empty. Such low utilisation of truck fleets by Indian transporters leads to higher logistics

costs, increased consumption of fuel and, of course, higher emissions.

The story of inefficiencies repeats itself in other logistics sectors too: in seaports, air cargo and freight, carriage by the Indian Railways. And these inefficiencies hurt India's export competitiveness.

But as a Parliamentary Standing Committee has found, many of the suggestions the panel made last year to various ministries on ways to lower logistics costs and augment infrastructure to boost exports, have not been implemented.

The National Logistics Policy (NLP), which was recently unveiled after much delay, is expected to somewhat smoothen these bumps and offer a coordinated approach to reducing overall logistics costs. But experts have already dubbed the NLP a paper of Government intent, lacking a roadmap to bring down costs.

Also, the share of IR in the total freight pie remains at just 35 percent as 65 percent of freight is transported by road. In

the case of southern ports trucks x carry 90 per cent of cargo

**The panel has, once again, pointed out that the freight rates being charged by IR are rendering India's exports uncompetitive.**

Not even half the total installed capacity at the country's Major Ports (especially in the east coast) has been put to use in the last five years. And even though the performance of India's Major Ports on key indicators has improved, it remains far from satisfactory. (Industry sources said while the west coast ports are overburdened the ports in the east coast are left high and dry by the policy makers of the shipping and railway ministries.)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

(To Read Full News

Please go to

[www.sagarsandesh.in](http://www.sagarsandesh.in))

### Indo UAE trade looks up after the free trade agreement

India's Merchandise exports to the West Asian economy rose nearly 14 per cent from a year earlier, six months after the India UAER free trade agreement came into force



### Etihad Cargo introduces Shanghai-Chennai freighter service

Chennai airport will have additional connectivity to Shanghai and Abu Dhabi as Etihad Cargo the logistics arm of Etihad Aviation group reinstating a twice weekly freight service from the Chinese city to Abu Dhabi via Chennai





## Dredging guidelines released for Major ports

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Dredging Guidelines for Major Ports has been released by the Ports Ministry to ensure implementation of dredging projects with optimum utilization of the resources and re-use of dredged material for sustainable development of ports in the country.

This information was given by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal in a written reply



Shipping Minister Sonowal

to the Lok Sabha.

**Development of Ports and Harbors involve construction of structures like breakwaters, jetties, reclamation bunds etc.**

and may also involve dredging to maintain depth of navigation.

These projects are required to obtain Environment/ Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and/or State Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA) as applicable as per the norms,

All Major Ports come under the administrative control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The construction of Port Infrastructure is done

after conducting various scientific studies namely Tranquility studies, study of movement of siltation, study on coastal erosion, littoral drift, mathematical model studies, environment impact study, etc and after obtaining statutory clearances viz environment clearance & Coastal Regulation Zone etc.

In order to ensure sustainable development of Ports, Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 was released which envisages development of Ports with safeguard for environment protection by adopting sustainable methodologies.

## Sagar Mala led port development at a glance

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

More than 800 projects at an estimated cost of around Rs. 5.4 lakh crore have been identified as part of Sagar Mala program. Sagarmala projects include projects from various categories such as modernization of existing ports and terminals, new ports, terminals, RoRo & tourism jetties, enhancement of port connectivity, inland waterways, lighthouse tourism, industrialization



around port, skill development, technology centers, Ports minister Sarbananda Sonowal informed the Lok Sabha in a written answer last week.

Under the port modernization, 241 projects at cost of around Rs. 2.5 Lakh Cr. have been undertaken for implementation. Ministry

is partially funding 20 port modernization projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,191 Cr. Out of total 20 projects, 4 projects worth Rs. 157 Cr. have been completed and 11 projects worth Rs. 868 Cr. are under implementation. The State-wise details of port modernization projects.

In Paradip Port, 4 major capacity addition infrastructure projects worth Rs. 3264 Cr. have been implemented in last 7 years. These projects have increased the capacity of port by 55 Million Tons Per Annum. Additionally, Deepening

and optimization of inner harbor facilities including development of Western Dock on BOT basis to Handle Cape Size Vessels at an estimated cost of Rs. 3004.63 Cr. has been awarded.

Gopalpur is a notified Non-Major Ports in the State of Odisha. Government of Odisha has informed that Gopalpur Port is developed & operational by Gopalpur Ports Limited (GPL) through PPP mode on BOOST basis. Hence, it is the responsibility of GPL to modernize and to augment the capacity of Gopalpur Port.

## MARINE NEWS

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

With Covid-19 cases on the rise in several countries including China, the Union Health Ministry raised an alert Tuesday 20 Dec and directed all states and UTs to sequence all positive case samples on a daily basis.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will hold a meeting Wednesday with senior officials and experts to review the Covid-19 situation in the country — India has been

## Centre sounds Covid alert, asks states to track positive samples

reporting around 1,200 cases a week.

In a letter to the states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, "In view of the sudden spurt of cases being witnessed in Japan, United States of America, Republic of Korea, Brazil and China, it is essential to gear up the whole genome sequencing of positive case samples to track the variants through Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network. Such an exercise will



A woman gets swabbed to be tested for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at a nucleic acid testing site in Shanghai, China. (Reuters / Aly Song)

enable timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the country and will facilitate undertaking of requisite public health measures for the same."

Other than increased surveillance, there has been no change in protocol for international arrivals as of now. The protocol revised last month does away with the need for either a negative RT-PCR or complete vaccination certificate. It said in-bound passengers should "preferably be fully vaccinated as per the approved primary schedule of vaccination against Covid-19 in their country."

There have also been

reports of a surge in cases and deaths from China as the country eased its "zero Covid-19" policy earlier this month.

Dr Anurag Agarwal, former head of INSACOG, said there is no need for travel restrictions any longer, especially in India where almost everyone has had the infection and been vaccinated, but surveillance and testing of in-bound passengers from a country experiencing a surge may help.

## MINISTRY NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

### Govt measures to strengthen Internationalisation of Higher Education

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

In line with the recommendations of NEP, 2020, several measures have been initiated to strengthen Internationalization of the Higher Education, such as:

i. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued Regulations on Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes on 02.05.2022.

ii. University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued Guidelines



MoS for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar

for Internationalisation of Higher Education on 29.07.2022. The guidelines call for establishment of the Office for International Affairs in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as a

single point of contact for facilitating foreign students and promoting internationalisation.

iii. World-class foreign universities and institutions will be allowed

in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) to offer courses in Financial Management, FinTech, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics free from domestic regulations, except those by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to facilitate availability of high-end human resources for financial services and technology.

iv. These initiatives will provide global exposure to students for multidisciplinary education with an internationally relevant curriculum and

quality education. It will attract foreign students and improve the standing of Indian universities as internationalisation is an important parameter in rankings.

In order to reduce the gap between modern and traditional education, the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division of Ministry of Education has been undertaking several initiatives including IKS internships for the undergraduate students.

The information was given by the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 21 Dec '22.

### IMO NEWS

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has made progress towards revising the Initial IMO GHG Strategy, working towards adopting a strengthened revised Strategy in mid-2023 at MEPC 80.

"I note and welcome the progress made on these matters. It cannot be stressed enough how crucial it is that we keep the momentum and deliver an ambitious and fair, revised IMO GHG Strategy at MEPC 80 next

### Marine Environment Protection Committee progress on GHG Strategy:



Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and particular matter

year," said IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, at the close of the MEPC 79 session, which met 12-16 December at IMO Headquarters in London.

"We cannot take our

foot off the accelerator, at this moment in time, the cooperation and dialogue that is the trademark of IMO, and not least this Committee, will be more important than ever in delivering on what is expected of us to address climate change, but also biodiversity loss and marine pollution," said Mr. Lim.

The work on revising the IMO GHG Strategy took place in an intersessional group, (ISWG-GHG-13); which met 5-9 December 2022, and in the Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, which met during the MEPC 79 session.

The Committee

reaffirmed its commitment to: adopt a revised IMO GHG Strategy, in all its elements...MEPC 80 (3-7 July 2023) is expected to adopt the revised IMO Strategy for Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

Revised resolutions on voluntary cooperation with ports and on national action plans...

The revised resolutions are:

Invitation to Member States to encourage voluntary cooperation between the port and the shipping sectors to contribute to reducing GHG emissions from ships;

Encouragement of Member States to develop and submit voluntary National Action Plans (NAPs) to address GHG emissions from ships.

**Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and particulate matter**

The MEPC session adopted amendments to designate the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter, under MARPOL Annex VI... This move will ensure cleaner air for populations in the Mediterranean Sea area.

### EXIM NEWS

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Union Minister of State of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Russian State-owned nuclear energy corporation, Rosatom has offered a more advanced fuel option to Kudankulam Nuclear power plant.

In a written reply to a

### Russia offers advanced fuel for Kudankulam nuclear power plant

question in the Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the first lot of TVS-2M fuel assemblies has been received in May-June 2022 from Russian Federation and loaded in Unit-1 and they are performing satisfactorily.

**Dr Jitendra Singh said, use of TVS-2M fuel assemblies in**



MoS for Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh

**KKNPP reactors will allow 18-month operating cycles as against 12-month operating cycle with UTVS Fuel Assemblies presently in use in Unit-2.**

The Minister said, Russia had offered a more advanced fuel namely TVS-2M type in place of

UTVS type fuel for use in reactors at Unit 1&2 at Kudankulam. He said after detailed deliberations by experts, considering the better operational performance with TVS-2M type fuel assemblies, it was decided to use TVS-2M fuel in place of UTVS fuel assemblies in Kudankulam Units-1 and 2.

# LOGISTICS (ROAD/RAIL/AVIATION)



A Smooth Sea Never Made a Skilled Sailor. - John George Hermanson

## Railways to Start GPS Tagging of 300,000 Wagons

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

As part of the Wagon GPS (WGPS) Project, the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) has invited expressions of interest for participating in knowledge gathering exercise for the determination of location on-run of the freight wagons of Indian Railways

using Satellite Navigation System.

**The Indian Railways is set to initiate Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking of each of its nearly 300,000 wagons under a plan to prevent pilferages on the national transporter.**

Officials said instances of “missing wagons” and theft of goods from open

wagons have been a long-standing concern of the railways. This leads to disputes with entities that use the railways network for freight transport. Even when goods trains cross the Indian borders, there have been cases where their return to the country is delayed.

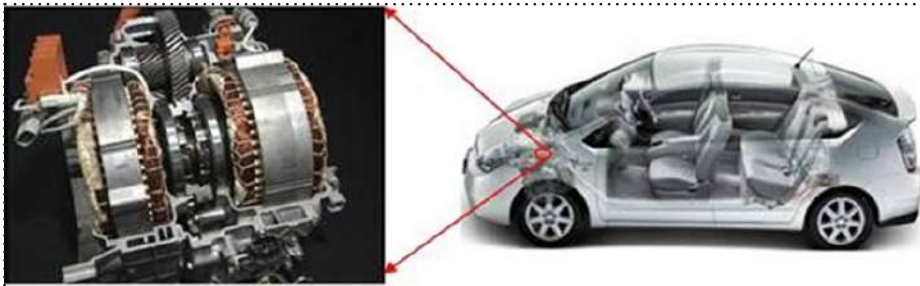
While instances of wagons going missing are rare, considering the



To prevent pilferages, Indian Railways to tag GPS on its wagons

volume of goods movement on the railways, they have raise concerns.

## Electric vehicles made affordable



Toyota Prius car with its electric motor which uses about 1 kg of Nd-Fe-B magnets

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Scientists have fabricated improved low cost heavy rare earth-free high Nd-Fe-B magnets, which are in high demand for Electric Vehicles and can make them more affordable.

More than 90 per cent of Electric Vehicles use brushless DC (BLDC) motors made up of rare earth Neodymium Iron Boron (Nd-Fe-B) magnets. Since its discovery by Sagawa in 1984, the Nd-Fe-B magnet has been one of the most sought-after permanent magnetic materials for many applications due to its exceptional combination of magnetic properties.

**Nd-Fe-B magnets used in EVs operate at high temperatures of 150 – 200°C and need to exhibit high resistance to demagnetization**, a capability that pure Nd-Fe-B magnets do not have. Hence Dysprosium (Dy) metal is added as an alloy to improve the resistance to demagnetization. World over, researchers are trying to enhance coercivity (resistance to demagnetisation) of Nd-Fe-B magnets without the addition of costly Dy. A strategy adopted by the research community to enhance

coercivity is to enrich the region between the grains of the Nd-Fe-B magnet with “non-magnetic” elements through suitable heat treatments (grain boundary diffusion).

Recently, scientists from the Centre for Automotive Energy Materials at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous Research and Development Centre of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, have enhanced the coercivity of Niobium (Nb)-containing Nd-Fe-B melt-spun ribbon by grain boundary diffusion process (GBDP) using a low melting point alloy of Nd<sub>70</sub>Cu<sub>30</sub> which acts as the source for the “non-magnetic” element.

They have reported restricted grain growth during grain boundary diffusion due to the precipitation of Nb, which facilitates the enrichment of Copper (Cu) at the grain boundaries aiding the increased resistance to demagnetization of Nd-Fe-B powders. The coercivity value of 1 T at 150°C critical for automotive applications achieved in this research published in Materials Research Letter could be

a useful strategy to develop magnets without Dy for EV applications.

The new strategy could also be used for commercial

production of Nd-Fe-B magnets in India, reducing imports that meet the major requirements of the automotive sector.

### VESSEL SCHEDULES

- For the benefits of our Readers the Schedules will be available in the form of a comprehensive map with a hyperlink to the web portals of Respective Ports and their Terminals.
- To know the details for any Port or Terminal, You are just required to log on to [www.porttoport.in](http://www.porttoport.in) and click the tool vessel position / Ports and terminal.

**WEST COAST**

AMCT - Adani Mundra Container Terminal  
 AICTPL - Adani International Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd.  
 MICT - Mundra International Container Terminal  
 ACMTPL - Adani CMA Mundra Terminal Pvt. Ltd.  
 KICT - Kandla International Container Terminal  
 NSICT - Nhavasheva International Container Terminal  
 NSIGT - Nhavasheva International Gateway Terminal  
 JNPCT - Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal  
 GTI - Gateway Terminals India  
 BMCT - Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals  
 ICTT - International Container Transshipment Terminal

**EAST COAST**

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 KPCT - Krishnapatnam Port Container Terminal  
 CCT - Chennai Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd  
 CITPL - PSA's Chennai International Terminals Pvt Ltd  
 KICT - Kattupalli International Container Terminal  
 DBGT - Dakshin Bharat Gateway Terminal Pvt. Ltd.  
 PSA Sical - PSA SICAL Terminals Limited



"News is what somebody somewhere wants to suppress; all the rest is advertising." - Lord Northcliffe

## EXIM TREND

# Goa tourist season at its best

PANJIM  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Goa's Old airport at Dabolim handled 101 departures on December 18th ahead of what is expected to be a jam-packed tourist season in the state in the days leading up to the new year.

The state government estimates that Goa will this year receive more than 81 lakh tourists, breaching the previous record of 80 lakh sent in 2019 prior to the pandemic. **The administration said it too was gearing up to tackle the 'surge'**

GOA International

Airport recorded 100 arrivals and 101 departures with a total passenger footfall of 31,965 on that day the highest in recent times," the Airports Authority of India said on Twitter.

Last year's tourist season in Goa was blighted by the resurgence of the Omicron variant and there are hopes that tourism is back in a big way with numbers that are likely to surpass that of the pre-pandemic days.

"We have been seeing very good numbers so far this year and demand has been encouraging in the months so far. Five-star hotels have done very



Goa expects floods of tourists for New Year

well and it has been very difficult to get a room in a five-star hotel in Goa, especially with weddings and other holidayers. This is all on account of tourists from within the country -- Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and other cities,"

**The peak of Goa's tourism is the week between Christmas and New Year when lakhs of**

**travellers from across the country come to the state.** The period also coincides with foreign tourist arrivals seeking to spend their days in sunny parts of the world away from the cold and wet winters of Europe.

Such is the demand to travel to Goa that even the Goa government has been finding it difficult to find

rooms for guests at an event being hosted towards the end of December.

Goa airport director S V T Dhanamjaya Rao said that **the airport was expecting an increase in demand but was capable of handling it.**

The airport handles the largest number of flights between 12:30pm and 2:30 pm in the hours immediately after the end of the Navy's restrictions with landings and takeoffs taking place within minutes of each other.

Airfares to Goa have spiked three-fold for both the Christmas and New Year's weekends and are expected to go higher as the date approaches.

# Free Trade agreement with Bangladesh

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Bangladesh's commerce minister Tipu Munshi is coming later this week, to firm up the road map for negotiations on the India Bangladesh Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement (CEPA).

During his two days visit starting December 22-23,



Bangladesh's commerce minister Tipu Munshi

he is expected to meet with his counterpart Minister of Commerce and Industry Trade Piyush Goyal.

**Financial Express Online has reported earlier that the two countries have already finalized a Joint Feasibility Study related to CEPA.**

The two sides are keen to conclude the CEPA

agreement as it is expected to help in boosting trade and investments between the two neighbors and more importantly it will help in enhancing trade in Eastern and North Eastern region.

In 2021, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Dhaka, the two sides had decided to conclude the Joint Feasibility Study related to the agreement fast.

Earlier this year in September, Bangladeshi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in New Delhi and the focus was on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as deepening of cooperation in energy, food security, connectivity and more.

**The two leaders are keen to conclude CEPA as that could double India's exports to neighboring Bangladesh to over 32 billion US dollars.**

# Investment Forum among Indo Pacific Economic group taking shape

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Consensus has been arrived among member countries of the Indo Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity on setting up an investment forum comprising private and public sector stakeholders to encourage investment in clean energy sector. **The consensus was arrived among the member countries during the recent round of talks held at Brisbane in Australia.** India has expressed his full support to the negotiations schedule agreed at the



Commerce Minister Goyal

Brisbane meeting held recently

In a follow up measure India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal along with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and other IPEF partner countries participated in

virtual Ministerial Meeting on Economic Benefits for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

**Mr Goyal urged members to focus energy on early harvest of deliverables which can benefit all the members.**

The Minister shared his views on some of the common tangible benefits like capacity building; technical assistance, including sharing of expertise and best practices; investments, innovative projects, etc, expected out of this initiative.

Mr Goyal said India can contribute towards supply chain resilience in sectors like pharmaceuticals and invited support from members in semiconductors, critical minerals and clean technologies including on innovative projects which can be promoted beyond IPEF in other developing countries.

He further talked about the non-paper submitted by India on some of the ideas like mobilization of financial resources for climate action at reasonable costs. He also drew attention

of partner countries on need for measures to counter terror financing.

**He expressed his belief that IPEF will promote inclusive development through enhancement of trade and investment in the region.**

Mr Goyal extended invitation to all partner countries for the next special negotiation round for Pillars 2-4 of IPEF to be hosted by India on February 8-11, 2023. US Secretary Raimondo welcomed India's offer to host the special negotiation round for Pillars 2-4 of IPEF and assured that the US IPEF team would work closely with India in this regard.