



Sagar Sandesh

Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Maritime Tabloid English Weekly Thrice E - Paper

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Connecting Sea & Shore – Seminar by Maritime Destination



Panelists & Moderators



Seafarers Speakers

Maritime Destination after the overwhelming response to the last five sessions of seminars/ webinars on the topic of “Connecting Sea & Shore”, held its 6th session Seminar in hybrid mode on 22nd December 2022.



Capt. Sajay Maini



Shri Amitabh Kumar



Capt. Pradeep Chawla

Capt Sanjay Maini, Country Head IRI, and Master of Ceremonies welcomed Chief Guest Shri Amitabh Kumar, IRS Director General of Shipping and Addl Secretary to GOI; Guest of Honour Capt. Pradeep Chawla, Group MD QHSE and Training Anglo-Eastern; Moderators Capt Mahesh Yadav, Director Training FOSMA and Mr. S.M.Rai, Maritime Advisor & Consultant, esteemed Panelist, sailing seafarers, and all participants. Expressing the importance of the topic “Connecting Sea and Shore”, thereafter introduced all the Panelists.

The Panelists were: Capt. Philip Mathews, Director SIMTF; Capt. Karan Kochar, Head of Marine people, Asia MFMT Pvt. Ltd.; Ms. Ishita Chattopadhyay, COO of Confidence Shipping; Dr.

Sanjay Bhavnani, Director & COO MMS India; and, Mr. Rajiv Sarang, GM Sourcing (FPD) EMSPL.

The Sailing Team connect were: 3/O Omprakash Gupta, 4E Manas Brahme, 2/O Asheesh Singh, 3E Surendra Nakti, C/O Ms. Harpreet Kaur, MEO Class 2 Ms. Nyari Nain-Fleet Superintendent, CE Shashank Bani, and Capt. Rakesh Pandey.

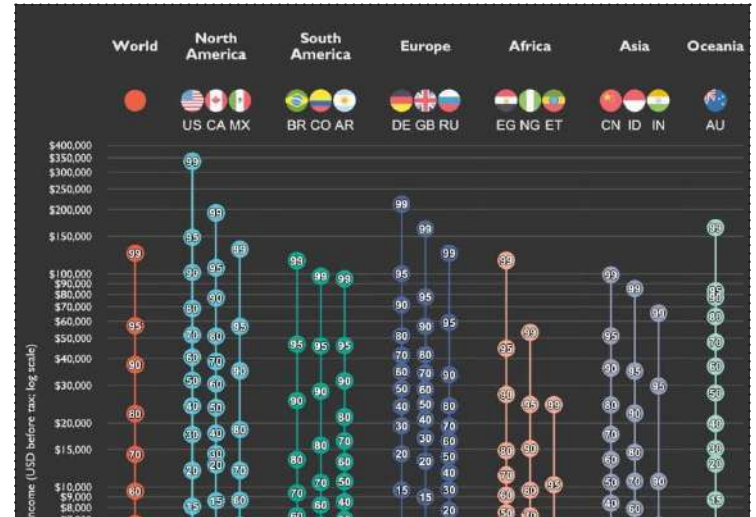
In the first two rounds of junior officers’ talk, the concerns raised were for the wage increase, value-added courses for juniors to be paid by the companies, mental trauma for not being relieved on account of family issues, shorter contracts for junior officers, and family health medical insurance.

The panel responded to all the questions very well and thereafter Capt. Pradeep Chawla was invited from Hong Kong on the virtual platform to put forward his views.

Capt. Pradeep Chawla responded to the wage rise questionnaire, he presented Creator Program recently published by the Visual Capitalist website on Income distributions in various countries. The graph shows income distribution in 16 different countries around the world to find your Percentile Position in Income Distributions around the world, giving an example of an Annual income of

\$36,000 (considered for 3rd officer) means that you are in the 96th percentile in India, which means that you are in the top 4 percent in India. Whether it is factory or shipping the competition goes according to what resources the business is willing to put in overall. This is important for seafarers to understand that whatever be the business, this is how competition happens. Production moves to China and instead of

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Income distributions in various countries

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Capt. Shiv Halbe CEO MASSA briefing on MASSA Academy conducting ME courses at attractive fees

that, it moves to India or Vietnam, it's all about how much money the business is making. In the crew wages, the percentile difference is roughly Indian is more expensive by 12 -15% of the other nationalities. The second part which needs to be understood is that crew wages are about 60-65% of the total cost of

running the ship. This is the most significant part of the budget. All other costs remain generally constant and the only competition is the Crew Wages. Let's say Indonesia running a ship with an Indonesian crew will be more competitive than somebody running a ship with an Indian crew or

Scandinavian crew and that is what the ship owners' competition is in different places. So once you try and educate yourself about the big picture of shipping then maybe you will be willing to accept that there is competition between the different nationalities, **Capt. Chawla briefed.**

With respect to the cost of courses, Capt Chawla expressed that good companies are having their own training centers or tied up with training institutes and are encouraging a lot of training but again look at the bigger picture, try and look at it from the viewpoint that is education helping the company or is helping individual and he advised seafarers to pay for the value-added courses for the benefit to their career.

Regarding mental

trauma and confidence building in junior ranks, the industry is thinking about the mental well-being of seafarers, so he was confident that this part is going to improve as the industry has become more sensitive towards the mental health of the seafarers and in society the general. It is something we all need to focus on as an industry, he added. He thanked the organizers for conducting these forums and giving him an opportunity for seafarers to come and discuss in a frank open manner. In closing remarks, he stressed to be safety conscious, better educated, and better trained and taking ownership of the job, to ensure not to have accidents on board.

In the next round of talks from senior officers, the concerns raised were, the designated medical officer on board

(generally 2nd officer) to hold adequate training in handling medical issues on board, Too many duties on the shoulders of the Chief officer, Maternity issues - Shore job request, NRI days reduction, non-availability of information on seafarers in the global platform who have accomplished/ achieved the milestone during the career, too much paperwork more of quantitative than qualitative, sign on/sign off logistics to be made more comfortable, knowledge to be given on wealth management and One point contact in case of Piracy or Emergency issue.

Panelists responded by and large in support of all concerns raised. They briefed on every concern raised and the industry's proactive action to the

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Capt. Ajay Achutan in Q&A session

satisfaction of seafarers. They also briefed the business module and the key points of being in the market. Thereafter Shri Amitabh Kumar was invited to address his views.

Shri Amitabh Kumar greatly appreciated the concept of organizing these seminars where seafarers are sharing their concerns directly to ship owners/ship managers through a well-arranged platform and both sides talk to each other and manage each other's expectations within the limitation and resources available. He stressed the importance of On-Job

learning which has no substitute.

On Medical Insurance Scheme for families, he informed that he will work on taking up the medical scheme for all seafarers' families through the Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society and if required to look into increasing the corpus in the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society.

On Mental Health, he briefed that he has asked the **National Institute of Mental Health & Neuroscience (NIMHANS)** to carry out a comprehensive study on the mental health requirement of seafarers of India. The study will look into the requirements right from the induction stage to working on board to the requirements of the family. "There are some institutions that are extending help to seafarers. We have issued the circular in which we have shared the contact details of all these institutions. We would be sharing the data that these institutions have,

with NIMHANS so that they have an idea as to what kind of issues they need to address in their study. Hopefully, after the study, we will take a lot of positive decisions in respect of the mental health of seafarers", he assured.

On issues relating to women in seafaring, raised by Ms. Niyari and Ms. Harpreet, Shri Amitabh Kumar said "when it comes to women's seafarer, it is actually an issue which is close to my heart, we need to take care of four stages if we want to encourage more women in seafaring, right from induction to job creation to retention and leadership".

On concern raised for too many jobs on C/O rank, Shri Amitabh Kumar said "To be a leader, you should also know how to delegate".

On the NRI reduction of days, he briefed on the concept of NRI that was brought to make sure one pays tax only in one place. Seafarers' jobs being at sea, is to be considered



Memento being presented to Amitabh Kumar

a win-win situation for exemption from tax.

On Manning Scale- on the Indian flag, he assured to look into and requested ship owners to look into for foreign flag vessels.

On Shore leave, he extended full support that shore leave should not be denied and he informed that more welfare centers are being opened in Indian ports. However Sign-on & Sign-off though are priority areas, unfortunately, all India ports are not equipped with sign-on/sign-off logistics, he added.

On the single contact point on Piracy the IMB PRC, he advised that the

DDG piracy unit is on 24X7. IMG (inter-ministerial Group) on piracy-headed by MoS are alerted who act efficiently. He once again thanked the organizers for their great initiative and informed that such forums should be continued from time to time.

The Seminar session ended with the distribution of mementos as a Token of Appreciation to all Panellists, Moderators and all seafarer speakers through the hands of Chief Guest Shri Amitabh Kumar followed by a Token of Appreciation memento to Shri Amitabh Kumar from the organizer Mr. Gagan Pandey.

LOGISTIC NEWS

Consumer durable makers stock up components amid supply chain worries

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

With the recent surge in Covid cases in China, consumer durable and electronics firms have stepped up focus on stocking up raw materials.

With rising concerns on supply chain disruption, the companies are also working on bringing forward the dates of shipments of critical components as they closely monitor the situation.

"Some impact on supply chains is already visible with shipment delays of about 15-35



Companies are highly reliant on China for components such as compressors for air-conditioners, among others | Photo Credit: File photo/AP

days. Less workforce due to Covid impact at factories in China is expected to further increase the pressure on shipments in the coming weeks. I believe higher selling products and stock keeping units (SKUs) may see a more severe impact

such as bigger-sized TVs and premium models of appliances," said Avneet Singh Marwah, CEO, Super Plastronics Pvt Ltd (SSPL).

He added that the company has been focusing on stocking up components especially for TV and appliance products. Companies that make air-conditioners and refrigerators typically begin stocking up on components December onwards ahead of the Chinese New Year holiday period.

This is done to prepare for the summer season that starts from April.



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MARINE NEWS



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

Commissioning of Water Metro need of the hour for Cochin

COCHIN
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The indefinite delay in the launch of water metro service in Kerala's commercial capital Cochin has seriously hampered movement of passengers from various islands to the city.

The launch of Water Metro, the first of its kind in the country, has been pushed back multiple times for the last two years.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New



Kochi Water Metro project much delayed

Delhi on December 26th and discussed various issues concerning the state and the delay in the launch of the Kochi Water Metro service came up during the discussions, sources said. Meanwhile, officials

of Kochi Water Metro said that the launch dates will be announced soon.

Daily commuters and tourists on the Vypeen-Fort Kochi route are severely affected as the authorities have turned blind eye to their travel woes despite requests from NGOs to repair Roll on Roll off vessel Sethusagar for nearly two months.

Fort Queen passenger boat that began operations on the route as relief, stopped operation on December 26th, citing technical glitches.

Disruption of service of one of the two Ro-Ro services and Fort Queen passenger boat has deeply affected the public as there is no easy connectivity from one end to the other end of the city said a spokesperson of the of the Boat Passengers Association.

Completion of Kochi Water Metro terminal work at Vypeen and High Court Junction gave hope to passengers as water metro services will provide an alternative option. "But, the delay in launching the service has dashed all hopes," he said.

Head of Russia's Admiralty Shipyards Dies Suddenly

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

A major Russian shipyard that specializes in building non-nuclear submarines said its general director had died suddenly on Saturday 24 Dec after 11 years in the job, but gave no details.

Admiralty Shipyards, based in the western port of St Petersburg, announced the death of Alexander Buzakov in a statement.

He had been in the job since August 2012.

His main achievement, it said, had been preserving and strengthening the shipyard's order books for modern non-nuclear submarines, surface ships and deep water vehicles.

Tass news agency said the shipyard is building improved Kilo-class diesel-powered submarines capable of launching Kalibr cruise missiles.

In April, Moscow said it had used a diesel submarine in the Black Sea to strike Ukrainian military targets with Kalibrs.

The shipyard said Buzakov graduated in 1980 and had more than 40 years of experience, indicating he had been in his mid-sixties when he died.

St Petersburg is the home city of President Vladimir Putin.



FILE PHOTO: Workers attend a ceremony launching the diesel-electric submarine "Rostov-on-Don" at the Admiralty Shipyards in St. Petersburg, June 26, 2014. REUTERS/Alexander Demianchuk/File Photo

Pakistan boat with Rs 300 crore worth Narcotics seized near Gujarat coast

AHMEDABAD
Sagar Sandesh News Service

A Pakistani boat with 10 crew members carrying arms, ammunition and 40 kg of narcotics worth Rs 300 crore was intercepted off the Gujarat coast in the early hours of December 26th, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) said. Ads by

Based on specific inputs shared by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad, the Coast Guard deployed its fast patrol ship 'ICGS Arinjay' for patrolling in the area



Arms, ammunition and nearly 40 kg of narcotics worth Rs 300 crore were found on the boat.

close to the International Maritime Border Line (IMBL) on the intervening night of December 25

and 26, the ICG said in a release. In the early hours of the day, the Pakistani

fishing boat 'Al Soheli' was observed moving suspiciously in Indian waters. On being challenged by the Indian Coast Guard ship, the boat started evasive manoeuvring and did not stop even after firing warning shots, it said.

The Coast Guard eventually managed to intercept and stop the boat. Arms, ammunition and nearly 40 kg of narcotics worth Rs 300 crore were found on the boat. The 10 crew members and

boat are being brought to Okha port for further investigation.

This is the seventh joint operation by the ICG and Gujarat ATS in the last 18 months, and the first apprehension wherein arms and ammunition along with drugs were recovered. A total of 346 kg of heroin worth Rs 1,930 crore has been seized and 44 Pakistani and seven Iranian crew have been apprehended in the last 18 months, the release said.



Coastal shipping to gets fillip from the Port Ministry

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Promotion of Coastal Shipping is topmost priority of the Ministry under Sagar mala and the ministry has undertaken several initiatives to promote coastal shipping in the country.

In order to continue this pace and seek further growth of coastal trade, a perspective plan up to 2025 on development of coastal shipping in India has been prepared by Asian Development Bank according to Port Ministry document released on December 27th.

To encourage a modal shift, Coastal vessels are being provided a discount of 40 per cent in port



Coastal shipping

charges over foreign going vessels. Other measures such as reduction of GST on bunker fuel from 18 percent to 5 percent, Cabotage relaxation for cargo vessels, integration of inland and coastal cargo, Subsidy support to Indian shipping companies, Green channel clearance for coastal cargoes and priority berthing for coastal vessels

at major ports are some of the efforts to promote coastal shipping.

Government Of India is providing assistance for construction or up-gradation of exclusive coastal berths, platforms or jetties, mechanization of coastal berth, and capital dredging. Five dedicated Coastal Berths have already been constructed at

various ports and another six are under development at various other ports.

With the advent of Gati Shakti and National Logistic Portal, Coastal shipping will get further required boost and will help in realizing the goal of bringing down the overall logistic cost. The Coastal shipping traffic has grown from 74.9 Million tons in 2014 to 133 Million tons in 2022.

Cruise Terminals

Under the coastal shipping and Inland Water Transport pillar of Sagar Mala program, there are various projects which specifically focus on promotion of cruise passenger transport. Up-gradation and Modernization of International Cruise Terminal at Indira Dock,

Mumbai at a total cost of Rs. 303 crore has been undertaken in Sagar Mala.

Further, Ministry is providing assistance to Kolkata Port for Development of River Cruise Terminal and River Tourism Facility Along With Riverfront Beautification Work.

For development of water aerodromes / Floating jetties, guidelines on various technical aspects for implementation including the suitability of Floating Jetty/ platform and their broad Performance Criteria & Specifications and Loading and Stability were issued by the Ministry and has given approval to Kolkata port Authority (SMPA) for undertaking prefeasibility studies at 8 locations.

Container Shipping Spot Rates near Pre-Covid Levels

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The billion-dollar question for container shipping markets at the beginning of 2022 was: "Party on or the big unwind?"

It turned out to be the big unwind. As this year comes to a close, the party is pretty much over. Many of the COVID-era market gains are gone. The rest will be in jeopardy in 2023.

Asia-West Coast rates back to normal

The Freightos Baltic Daily Index (FBX) assessed China-West Coast rates at \$1,378 per forty-foot equivalent unit on



Xeneta CEO Patrik Berglund: We've seen a golden age for the carriers since the beginning of the pandemic, but those days are all but gone now.

Monday. The index has been relatively unchanged since Nov. 23 and is down 93% from its all-time high in September 2021.

It has now done a full round trip since the beginning of the COVID-induced consumer boom

— it's back where it was at this time of year in 2019.

The weekly Drewry World Container Index (WCI) assessed Shanghai-Los Angeles spot rates at \$1,992 per FEU as of Thursday. It has been roughly flat since Dec. 8.

It's down 84% from its peak in November 2021, although still \$557 per FEU above where it was in late December 2019.

The Drewry WCI Shanghai-New York index was at \$3,889 on Thursday, down 76% from the all-time high in September 2021. According to the WCI, spot rates in this lane are still \$1,391 per FEU or 56% above where they were at this time in 2019.

East Coast-West Coast price spread normalizes

Long-term rates are tracked by Xeneta. Its long-term contract index held fairly steady in December after falling sharply in November. Xeneta's global contract-rate average is still up 70% year on year this month, and its contract-rate

assessment for U.S. imports remains 130% higher.

"This is really just the quiet before the storm," said Xeneta CEO Patrik Berglund on Thursday. "As more and more long-term contracts expire in the New Year, expect the [Xeneta's long-term index] to post far greater month-on-month declines.

"All indicators point toward considerable rate drops from today's levels, with several of the major Far East trades pointing toward new long-term contracts that are much closer to the currently far lower spot-rate benchmarks.

"We've seen a golden age for the carriers since the beginning of the pandemic, but those days are all but gone now," said Berglund.

NEWS IN BRIEF

(To Read Full News Please go to www.sagarsandesh.in)

Road accidents go up in 2021 notwithstanding the tall claims of the Union Ministry

Over 1.5 lakh people died and nearly four lakh people sustained serious injuries in Road accidents in the country during 2021 according to the.....



VOC Port issues revised parameters for berthing of vessels at CJ-I

VOC Port Authority has issued a notice to the EXIM trade indicating revised parameters for the berthing of vessels at CJ-I at the port.



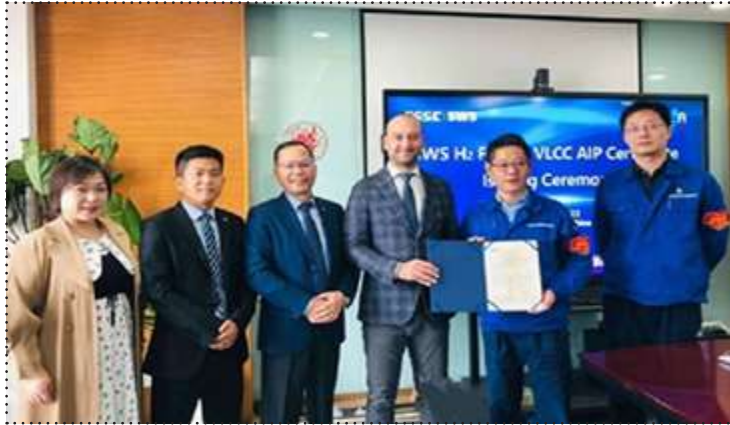


SWS awarded by RINA First AiP of LNG/Hydrogen Fuelled VLCC

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Registro Italiano Navale (RINA) has announced the Approval in Principle (AiP) of the first very large crude carrier (VLCC) vessel using an innovative propulsion arrangement that reduces the ship's resistance by 5-10%.

This result is achieved by splitting the thrust of a single large propeller into two smaller ones, thus reducing the required ballast draft for the full propeller immersion, which in turn allows the reduction of the volume of the ballast tanks and, ultimately, of the overall ship dimensions and the required power



SWS awarded by RINA First AiP of LNG/Hydrogen Fuelled VLCC

for propulsion without impacting the cargo carrying capacity. The innovative ship design and propulsion arrangement from the Chinese shipyard **SHANGHAI WAIGAOQIAO SHIP-**

BUILDING Co.Ltd (SWS) will reduce ship resistance by around 5-10% and exceed IMO 2050 targets.

At the same time the vessel will meet the IMO targets for 2050 through the

use of the ship's fuel (LNG) combined with hydrogen produced onboard. The LNG/hydrogen-fuelled vessel general arrangement developed by Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding (SWS) is based on the result of a joint project with Marin, the Liberia Administration, Wärtsilä, ABB and Helbio (a subsidiary of Metacon AB) and RINA.

The new propulsion concept is important because it offers ship owners a way to exceed IMO 2050 carbon reduction targets using practical fuel and technology that is readily available today.

The propulsion design is based on combining LNG

with steam in a Helbio gas reformer to split LNG molecules into hydrogen and CO₂. Hydrogen is then directly used to fuel the internal combustion engines and fuel cells. **The capture of carbon atom directly from the LNG molecules, serves as a pre-combustion technique, and the cryogenic separation of CO₂ from a stream of reformed gases rather than from exhaust emissions results in much smaller installation on board which eliminates the use of chemicals and the penalty in energy consumption.**

The AiP to SWS, following the MR AiP design in Europe, shows the wider acceptance of the concept by global shipyards.

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Costco Wholesale Corp., Home Depot Inc. and Party City Holdco Inc. are among companies that have pulled back from ship charters amid plentiful space on container ships and fast-slumping ocean-shipping rates.

Shipping demand was so great in 2021 that even the nation's biggest importers struggled to secure space on ships. Those that found space paid such a premium, with spot-market rates rising 10-fold to \$20,000 or more to send a container from Asia to the U.S. West Coast, that some retailers

found chartered ships an affordable alternative.

Party City started booking space on chartered vessels in mid-2021 in advance of Halloween, its busiest time of year, said Bruce Dzinski, Party City's director of international transportation.

Mr. Dzinski said Party City continued to use chartered ships for 20% to 25% of imports during the first half of 2022, this time routing cargoes through the Port of New York and New Jersey. **But the company switched back to regular container services around the middle of this year when it became easier to secure space and shipping rates were falling.**

Retailers Moving Away From Chartered Ships Usage



Retailers are moving away from using chartered ships to get around pandemic-triggered disruptions now that congestion at ports has cleared and pressures in supply chains have eased.

The average cost of sending a container from Asia to the U.S. West Coast reached \$1,403 by the first week of December, according to the Freightos

Baltic Index, down from \$14,924 at the same time last year.

Jon Monroe, a shipping industry consultant, said companies trying to run

their own vessels also face numerous complications, including securing berth space at ports and managing the logistics of returning empty containers to Asia.

German discount grocer Lidl committed heavily to the strategy by launching its own shipping line, Tailwind Shipping Lines, in July, to serve its chain of more than 12,000 stores across 31 countries, **and it continues to run that operation.**

Costco leased space aboard seven ships, each one capable of carrying about 1,000 containers, on contracts that ran for up to three years.

NYK: Change of the Leadership from April 1st

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

There will be a change in top leadership at Japanese shipowner NYK from 1 April 2023.

Takaya Soga currently Senior Executive Officer for NYK will take over the role of President,

Representative Director President and Chief Executive Officer on 1 April next year.

Current President, Representative Director President and Chief Executive Officer will move up the position of Hitoshi Nagasawa to become

Chairman and Director of the Japanese shipping firm.

Present Chairman and Director Tadaaki Naito will resign as Chairman 31 March 2023.

He will remain a Director until June 2023 when he will become a Special Advisor to NYK.

MARINE NEWS



CONTAINER TERMINAL NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

J M Baxi's Paradip terminal achieves highest monthly fertiliser despatch

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Cargo Terminal achieved its highest monthly despatch of fertiliser to date.

J M Baxi's Paradip Multipurpose Clean The terminal clocked in 1, 02,644 MT of fertilisers

with 38 rakes in November 2022. This record surpasses its last highest monthly fertiliser despatch of 92,322 MT with 35 rakes in November 2020.

Fertilisers are one of the main commodities handled at this terminal, said a communique.



SEAFARERS NEWS

China Enables Exchange of Seafarers, Even as COVID Surges

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Amidst a growing surge of COVID-19 cases, China is preparing to reopen its ports of entry to foreign travelers – including seafarers – without any quarantine period or testing on arrival.

The new policy will take effect on January 8.

"China will adjust the cargo-only policy at ports of entry and gradually resume entry and exit of passengers by land and water and provide greater convenience for Chinese and foreign crew change in China," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying on Tuesday 27 Dec. "Those with no issues to report in their health declaration who have been given regular customs inspection and quarantine clearance can enter China without being subject to quarantine."

For more than a year, China's ports have operated on a "closed-loop" model, walled off from the rest of the country by COVID-19



China to reopen its ports to foreign travellers including seafarers

restrictions. That is quickly changing, along with the rest of the nation's approach. After a wave of public protests in November, Beijing quietly loosened its strict quarantine and public health policies, and all indications suggest that the disease is now rapidly sweeping the country.

The government officially maintains that the case rate is low, and its published COVID fatality rate is in the single digits per day for a nation of 1.4 billion; however, social media and independent reporting suggest that hospitals and morgues are having difficulty keeping up with the pace.

The impact on seaports remains to be seen, but early indications suggest

that infection rates are having an effect on all stages of the supply chain. Some manufacturers are slowing production or returning to the use of closed-loop, quarantined staffing policies. Top car manufacturer BYD has had to cut production by a third, and vice president Lian Yubo told CNN that "20% to 30% of our employees are sick at home."

As an indication of the difficulties on the ground, a recent CNBC poll of 340 leading American importers found that about 60 percent are having challenges getting their orders filled and delivered – despite the fact that the congestion that plagued ocean freight this year has effectively ended.

EXIM NEWS

After Oil, India Imports Cheap Steel from Russia

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Cheaper offerings, distress selling by mills and a fall in international steel prices, have has been a major causes of rising imports from Russia.

Russian steel exports to India rose by 468 per cent between April and November this year, the highest in recent times.

Shipments coming into India stood at 218,000 tonnes for the eight month period under review at \$253 million; while for the same period last year, Russia exported just 38,400 tonnes and valued at \$61 million.

Cheaper offerings, distress selling by mills and a fall in international steel prices, have been major causes of rising imports from Russia and some other key markets like China, Korea and others, a concern that some of the larger steel mills of India have raised over the last few months.

While shipments from Russia saw the highest increase in percentage terms making it the fourth largest supplier; Korea is the largest exporter – both in terms of volume and value – to India with nearly 1.5 million tonnes (mt) of steel coming in during April – November, a rise of 16 per cent, a

report of the Union Steel Ministry said.

Other major exporters to India include China, Japan and Indonesia. While China and Indonesia saw an increase year-on-year (y-o-y) by 69 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively; shipments from Japan fell by 6 per cent.

Overall imports of total finished steel at 3.751 mt, up by 22.5 per cent, y-o-y. Indian steel imports have increased y-o-y for six months of the year – from June to November with quantity varying between 444,000 tonne to 600,000 tonne.

Items brought in from Russia include hot rolled coils and strips to the tune of 158,400 tonnes; around 9200 tonnes of galvanised plain and corrugated sheets (GP/GC sheets); 50,400 tonnes of electrical sheets and 100-odd tonnes of other items.

In value terms, semi-finished steel from Russia was worth \$2.9 million; while finished steel imports were valued at \$250 million.

India turned net importer of steel (imports exceeding exports) in July and then again in October and November this year. However, for the eight-month period, the country remained a net exporter of steel.



Steel imports from Russia jump over 400% in Apr-Nov period.

PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

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

Port of Oakland selects electric cargo handling equipment

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Two all-electric top picks are operating at the Californian port, as part of a demonstration project to create a zero-emissions seaport. The port of Oakland has joined a select group of seaports to operate the green technology equipment.

Top picks are heavy-duty vehicles with off-road capabilities and have an overhead boom used for loading containers weighing up to 100,000

pounds onto trucks and trains and stacking the containers in terminal storage yards.

"We're excited to demonstrate this zero-emissions, cargo handling equipment," commented Danny Wan, executive director of the Port of Oakland.

He added, "Our goal is to reduce emissions from our maritime operations to create a healthier environment for everyone."

This demonstration project is part of the Zero-And Near-Zero-Emission



The Port of Oakland has announced that it uses new green equipment to achieve its zero-emission targets.

Freight Facilities Investments (CCI) program, which is funded by the California Climate

by investing in projects whose purpose is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the economy, improve public health and the environment, and invest in disadvantaged communities.

The Port of Oakland partnered with the ports of Long Beach and Stockton, marine terminal operators, vessel operators and technology providers in order to bring the top picks to Oakland.

The deployment of the zero-emissions top picks builds upon the Port of Oakland's and its maritime industry partners', large-scale emissions reduction initiative launched in 2009.

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Major strides have been taken at the Government owned Major Ports towards the Digitization of key EXIM processes considerably bringing down the time taken for processing of documents promoting ease of doing business.

The PCS 1x has digitized processes such as Electronic Invoice (e-Invoice), Electronic Payment (e-Payment) and Electronic Delivery Order (e-DO) for physical release of cargo by custodians.

Further, the process of generation of electronic

Update on Digitization of Ports



Digital sea change at Major ports

Bill of Lading (e-BL) and enabling the Letter of Credit (LC) process to be conducted digitally have already been implemented in the PCS 1x.

There is also going to be complete integration between PCS 1x and Indian Customs EDI Gateway (ICEGATE). Further the process to bootstrap PCS 1x into National

Logistics Portal-Marine (NLP-Marine) is already underway which will act as a Unified Digital Platform all Maritime stakeholders. NLP Marine + PCS 1x platform is envisaged as the central hub for all interactions with various stakeholders viz. Port, Terminals Shipping Lines Agents, CFS and Customs Brokers, Importer / Exporter etc.

Now, PCS module of NLP-M has been partially released on 5/12/2022. NLP-M is integrated with ICEGATE via SFTP for existing messages, further for SCMTR messages LP-M-ICEGATE is getting integrated for API

integration. Out of 11 API payloads, 7 API payloads have been integrated.

Further, the Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) solution has been implemented at all major ports to enable seamless movement of traffic across port gates, including substantial reductions in documentation checks. All Major ports have already implemented Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID). Up gradation and integration with recent technologies-IGoT, Block Chain to ease transaction and real time basis tracking has been envisaged in Maritime India Vision 2030.

LOGISTIC NEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has sought the views of 16 departments and ministries on its draft national retail trade policy, which is aimed at the overall development of all formats of the sector, an official said.

After getting comments from all the Departments and Ministries, DPIIT would seek approval of

DPIIT seeks views of different Ministries on draft National Retail Trade policy

the Union Cabinet on the policy, the official added.

The policy would focus on formulating strategies to provide a globally competitive and sustainable environment for the overall development of retail trade through targeted efforts.

The objectives of the policy include ensuring easy and quick access to affordable credit, facilitating modernization and digitisation of retail

trade by promoting modern technology and superior infrastructural support; development of physical infrastructure across the distribution chain; promotion of skill development and improve labour productivity, and providing an effective consultative and grievance redressal mechanism for the sector.

India is the world's fifth-largest global destination in the retail space.



According to a report of CII-Kearney on retail, **a cohesive national retail policy can help generate 30 lakh more jobs by 2024.**

The report was released in November 2020.

The retail industry is likely to see 10 per cent annual growth to reach

about USD 2 trillion by 2032, according to a BCG-RAI report.

Besides the retail policy, the DPIIT is also working on formulating a national e-commerce policy to promote the growth of the online retail sector in the country.

A new industrial policy is also on the anvil, the official said.

This will be the third industrial policy after the first in 1956 and the second in 1991.

Gujarat remains a leader in the country's port sector

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Gujarat remains the focus of the central government in terms of port infra development with the shipping ministry sanctioning mega projects costing over Rs six thousand five hundred crores at Kandla port according to the Port Ministry's official document released on December 27.

Development of Multipurpose Cargo Berth Off Tuna Tekra at Gulf of Kutch at Kandla on Build,



Kandla port now Deendayal Port

Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with an estimated cost of Rs.2,250.64 crore accorded

by the Government through Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Development of Berth will give it a strategic

advantage as it will be the closest container terminal serving the vast hinterland of northern part of India.

Development of Container Terminal at Tuna-Tekra, at Kandla port on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode with an estimated cost of Rs 4,243.64 crore accorded by the Government through Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. On commissioning of the Project, it shall cater to the future growth in Container Cargo traffic from the state.

Gujarat has the largest port in the country

near the Gulf Kutch at Mundra promoted by the Adani ports. It also has a string six major ports carrying nearly forty per cent of EX IM cargo of the country according to industry sources.

With the commissioning of Mumbai-Delhi dedicated freight corridor through Gujarat, the turn over the ports in the state would increase manifold.

Most of the ports in Gujarat are directly linked to the corridor and the goods reaching the port could get transported to North Indian hinterland within hours.

DPA Port Authorities inspected measures regarding preparation for CORONA situation

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Looking to the present scenario, the Government ordered to be prepared and take all precaution measures to mitigate the Corona outbreak, if any.

To take the updates regarding preparation to tackle Corona, at DPA Hospital, Gopalpuri, Shri S.K. Mehta, IFS, Chairman, DPA along with Shri Nandeesh Shukla, IRTS, Dy. Chairman



DPA Port Authorities inspected measures regarding preparation for CORONA situation

visited the hospital campus. OSD (Covid) accompanied them. Chairman and Dy. Chairman visited the ICU and confirmed that all the

instruments are in working condition including supply of oxygen. Chairman inquired about availability of beds for isolation or Corona patients, if needed in near future.

Dr. Sunil Suryawanshi briefed and apprised that total 30 beds including ICU can be spared for Corona patients/isolation. Other beds will be required for DPA beneficiaries. Dr. Mahesh Bapat echoed the views of Dr. Sunil Suryawanshi.

Thereafter, Chairman

and Dy. Chairman visited Oxygen Plant installed at backside of the hospital. They were satisfied with the functioning and working condition of the Oxygen Plant. Dr. Sunil Suryawanshi informed that the AMC has been given for maintenance and operation of Oxygen Plant and which is satisfactory.

Chairman and Dy. Chairman were satisfied with the all over preparation to mitigate the Corona situation.

SHIPPING NEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

In its latest weekly report, shipbroker Clarkson Platou Hellas said that "there is some renewed hope that the financial restrictions experienced in Bangladesh and Pakistan could soon be lessened. It is reported this week that a few recyclers have managed to open Letters of Credit..

India remains the most stable of the three recycling destinations in the Indian sub-Continent with inquiry to purchase tonnage prominent to

Ship Recycling Market Could Come Back to Life



The ship recycling market has been under pressure for quite some time, marking 2022 as a rather turbulent year.

attempt to fill their ever-depleting yards. 2022 has been an intriguing year for ship recycling but 2023 certainly looks to have increased supply to the industry. Actual sales during 2022 were considerably down from 2021".

The shipbroker added that "in relation to the actual dwt committed, the tanker sector supplied about 60% less tonnage for recycling compared to 2021, on the dry bulk side, about 23% down compared to 2021 and around 50% down for all other types of vessels. The container sector continues to struggle in terms of charter rates and the expectancy is to see more container tonnage circulate into the market during next year and more abundantly 2024. Supplies of tanker tonnage will

remain at a low whereas we do expect to see more dry bulk tonnage come for sale throughout the year", Clarkson Platou Hellas concluded.

Meanwhile, in a separate note this week, GMS (www.gmsinc.net), the world's leading cash buyer of ships added that "as sub-continent markets veer through the last couple of weeks towards the end of the year, we can look back and reflect on what has been an extremely turbulent 2022.

Steel plate prices and

especially the relevant currencies have all seen record lows against the U.S. Dollar, shattering records by the month during the summer period. We have also seen decade lows in the supply of tonnage, with almost all freight sectors performing strongly this year, as we finally seen a much-anticipated rebound on tankers.

Dry Bulk and Containers have also had outstanding years, with minimal scrapping seen in both sectors during the first half of the year. As such, moving into 2023, we do expect to see more vessels enter the market for recycling.

Update on Gati Shakti scheme

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

With over 1,200 data layers of concerned central ministries/departments and 755 essential layers of states and union territories (UT), India's Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) is fully operational in 2022, as per the year-end review of Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

GatiShakti has also complemented the National Logistics Policy

for any transport related challenges.

Individual portals for 22 infrastructure and user economic ministries and all 36 states/UTs with necessary data layers, customised tools, and functionalities were developed, according to the Commerce Ministry document.

Altogether thirty-eight meetings of the Network Planning Group (NPG) were held during the year, wherein 57 projects were examined. In addition, user ministries shared 197



critical infrastructure gaps pertaining to road, rail, and port connectivity. These were examined by the NPG.

Online course on GatiShakti was hosted on Integrated Government Online Training (iGoT) platform to build capacities within the government. Resolution of issues for time bound project implementation gained momentum through the Project Monitoring Group

(PMG) mechanism.

Twenty-eight states submitted their annual action plans. Plans of all states worth Rs. 5,023 crore were recommended to department of expenditure (DoE). For efficient operation of the GatiShakti NMP, training and capacity building of over 1,000 State level officers in physical mode at Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) was completed, apart from 6 zonal conferences.

As many as 15 states developed logistics policy. States of Karnataka and Punjab notified their

logistics policy in the month of November, the Commerce Ministry said in its year-end review.

A new digital platform—ease of logistics services or E-Logs—was also started under the National Logistics Policy. The integration of Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), with 32 systems of 7 different ministries through 100+plus application programming interfaces (APIs), covering 1600-plus fields was completed successfully.

ULIP was designed and developed by NICDC under the guidance of Niti Aayog.

PRESIDENT SECRETARIAT NEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone for the development of pilgrimage facilities at Bhadrachalam Group of Temples under PRASHAD scheme at Bhadrachalam today (December 28, 2022).

Subsequently, she inaugurated Sammakka Saralamma Janjati Pujari Sammelan, organised by the Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad –Telangana at Bhadrachalam and virtually inaugurated Eklavya Model Residential Schools of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Mahabubabad districts of Telangana.

Addressing the gathering, the President noted that the famous temples of Telangana are visited by lakhs of

pilgrims. She said that out of domestic and foreign tourists, a large number is of pilgrims. In this way, pilgrimage tourism has a huge contribution in enhancing domestic tourism. Tourism increases the livelihood opportunities and income of the people and also strengthens the local economy. She appreciated the Ministry of Tourism for giving a boost to the spiritual and cultural tourism through the development of pilgrimage sites under the 'PRASHAD' scheme.

Noting that tribal people, especially from the Koya community, gather to offer prayers to Sammakka Saralamma.

The President said that such festivals and gatherings strengthen social harmony. With these activities, our

President of India Inaugurates Sammakka Saralamma Janjati Pujari Sammelan at Bhadrachalam



President Droupadi Murmu addresses the Sammakka Saralamma Janjati Pujari Sammelan

traditions continue to grow from generation to generation. She said that it is imperative to keep our culture, traditions and customs alive. This would also help to preserve our heritage. She appreciated the Vanvasi Kalyan

Parishad, Telangana for organising this Sammelan. She was happy to note that the Parishad is constantly striving for the overall development of the forest dwellers.

The President said that active participation of

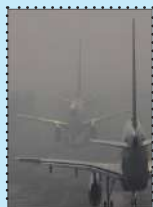
women in all dimensions of progress is essential for the overall development of our society and country. She said that it is a matter of satisfaction that Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad is running development centers to take women forward in the direction of economic empowerment. Parishad is also organizing camps in tribal areas to raise awareness about rural development. She appreciated the Parishad for such welfare and developmental initiatives.

Subsequently, the President visited Ramappa Temple (Rudreshwara Temple) in Warangal district where she laid foundation stones for development of tourism infrastructure and restoration of Kameshwaralaya Temple.

NEWS IN BRIEF (To Read Full News Please go to www.sagarsandesh.in)

Flights dislocated at Delhi airport due to fog

At least 100 flights were delayed and two were diverted at Delhi's India Gandhi International Airport due to dense fog early.....



Air India specifies Covid norms for Gulf passengers

Amid India's ramped up response against Covid-19, the national carrier Air India Express released a set of guidelines for its passengers coming from the United



Master Plan for Development of Railway Stations put in place

Ministry of Railways has formulated a new policy for modernization of stations named "Amrit Bharat Station scheme.



LOGISTICS (ROAD/RAIL/AVIATION)



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

Railways freight revenue looks up

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The National transporter Railways have recorded a turn over Rs One lakh crores through freight during the first eight months of the current financial year April to November 2022. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Rajya sabha last week in a written answer.

The revenue was nearly fifteen thousand crores rupees more than

the corresponding period previous year. The freight revenue of the railways have been growing in double digits barring the year 2020-21 when the movement of trains were affected by the Corona pandemic.

The Railways is constantly in touch with its customers. Its focus is on meeting the needs of freight in terms of timely availability, reliable service and proper handling of cargo.



The revenue through freight was nearly fifteen thousand crores rupees more than the corresponding period previous year

Ministry of Railways has schemes to attract private investment in General Purpose Wagons, Special Purpose/High Capacity wagons and Automobile carrier wagons. Various steps taken by the Railways for speedy sanction and

implementation of rail projects including augmentation of Traffic Facility include setting up of Gati Shakti units, prioritization of projects, substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects delegation of powers at field level, close monitoring of progress of projects at various levels, and regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects.

Adani enters into warehousing market joint venture with DA Group



The company's consolidated net profit surged 68.53% to Rs 1,677.48 crore on 32.83%

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone has announced that Adani Harbour Services (TAHSL), Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) of the company has incorporated a WOS in the name of The Adani Harbour International DMCC.

The Adani Harbour International DMCC has been incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of TAHSL on 22 December 2022, for the purpose of carrying out the activities relating to barges & tugs charter, marine tours operation, sea freight and ship charter.

TAHSL incorporated TAHIDMCC with an initial share capital of AED 1,00,000 divided into 100 shares of value

AED 1,000 each and said that it is yet to commence its business operations.

AALSL is incorporated in Dubai and registered under regulations of Dubai Multi Commodities Centre authority on 22 December 2022. It belongs to shipping and marine industry.

Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone is engaged in the business of development, operations and maintenance of port infrastructure (port services and related infrastructure development) and has linked multi product Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and related infrastructure contiguous to Port at Mundra.

The company's consolidated net profit surged 68.53% to

Rs 1,677.48 crore on 32.83% jump in revenue from operations to Rs 5210.80 crore in Q2 FY23 over Q2 FY22.

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.portport.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	- Nhasvasheva International Container Terminal
NSIGT	- Nhasvasheva 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	
VCTPL	- Visakha Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd.
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



EXIM TREND

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

Putin slaps ban on price-capped Russian oil exports

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Russian state controlled news agency Tass reports that President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree on retaliatory measures to the West's imposition of a **price cap on Russian oil**. The document bans supplies of Russian oil to buyers who join the West's restrictions after February 2023.

"The supply of Russian oil and oil products to foreign legal entities and individuals is prohibited, provided that the contracts for these supplies directly or indirectly provide for the use of a price fixing mechanism. The



President Putin bans export of price capped oil

established ban applies at all stages of supplies to the final buyer," according to a decree published 27 Dec.

The document comes into force on February 1, 2023 and is valid until July 1, 2023, says Tass.

The ban on the supply of oil established by this

decree will be applied directly starting February 1.

The ban on the supply of Russian oil products will be applied "from the date determined by the government of the Russian Federation, but not earlier than from the date this decree comes into force."

Rupee Trade Makes a Head Start with Russia

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Settlement of foreign trade in rupee has finally taken off, with a few transactions involving Russian firms having taken place recently, trade sources told FE. This is the first set of transactions since the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced guidelines in July to promote the settlement of international trade in rupee.

At least a dozen-and-a-half vostro accounts have been opened so far to facilitate the rupee trade with not just sanctions-hit Russia but also Sri Lanka and Mauritius. So, more such transactions are likely to take place in the coming months, said the sources. This may spur exports to Moscow, which declined 16% until October this fiscal from a year ago to \$1.6 billion due to the delayed flow of payments, despite renewed interest shown by Moscow to source more goods from India, they added.

As reported, about



Settlement of foreign trade in rupee has finally taken off

30-35 countries, including those from Asia, Scandinavia and Africa, have expressed interest in better understanding the proposed rupee trade mechanism for possible adoption. These countries include neighbours, such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar, which have been grappling with a shortage of dollar reserves. So, there is a huge scope to boost the rupee trade, senior government officials believe.

Russian banks like Sberbank, VTB, Gazprom, BCS, MTS, Tinkoff, Soyuz, Credit Europe Bank (Russia), PSCB, Ros and JSCB have opened such accounts.

Six of these accounts

have been opened with IndusInd Bank, and one each with UCO Bank, HDFC Bank, Union Bank of India and Canara Bank. Sberbank and VTB has opened one such account with their local branches here.

The RBI had, in July, notified the mechanism not just to reduce the pace of depreciation of the rupee against the dollar but also internationalise the domestic currency. Subsequently, the commerce ministry notified guidelines to enable exporters to get stipulated benefits under the foreign trade policy even if the export realisation is in the domestic currency, and not dollar.

Border guards of Bangladesh and India block the construction of Land ports



India-Bangladesh border

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Construction of four land ports in Bangladesh at Ramgarh, Bilonia, Bibirbazar and Sheola ports in the bordering villages across India remains disrupted due to objections from the security agencies of both the countries according to media reports.

Our challenge is the 150 yards of no man's land. Although an agreement was signed so that the land port authorities of the two countries can develop their respective areas, the border forces of both countries barred our work in the name of security. "We are now talking with the higher authority to resolve the issue," he added.

On the other hand, construction work on Birol land port has been completed but the Bangladesh authorities cannot launch it as India has not yet completed the link road on their part.

Another land-port – Tegamukh of Rangamati – is under consideration, said the land port

authority chairman. "We are considering the port as it is very important for India. If we build the port, we will be able to earn a lot of revenue from there.

Bangladesh government has taken many initiatives to bring about massive development in the country's land port infrastructure, and enhance port efficiency and connectivity to boost cross-border trade and make ports more accessible and hassle-free to users.

As part of that move, six new land ports are scheduled for opening by June 2023. Also, work is underway to develop infrastructure and bring automation to three existing key ports – Benapole, Bhomra, and Burimari.

"The country has 24 declared land ports and 12 of them are currently operational. The new six ports will be added to the functional land ports by June next," he added.

The new ports will play a significant role in boosting export-import trade with India through roads, making the transportation of perishable goods faster.