



# Sagar Sandesh

Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Maritime Tabloid English Weekly Thrice E - Paper

In association with R L Institute of Nautical Sciences, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. | RNI No. TNENG/2012/41759 | Monday, January 02, 2023 | Voyage 11 Wave 139

Published & Released on Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday



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Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

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## Sagar Sandesh

*Wishes its Readers and Supporters*

*A Happy and Prosperous New Year 2023*

*Filled with Good Health, Wealth and Happiness*



**The International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations (IFCBA) held a very successful conference on 12-13th December 2022 in Singapore, welcoming customs brokers from 12 countries in Asia, North and South America, the Caribbean, and Africa, and celebrating the IFCBA's 30th anniversary. The focus of the conference was on the World Customs Organization (WCO) study review of the Harmonized System of Tariff Classification.**

In his opening speech, the Secretary General of the WCO, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, congratulated the organizers of the Global Conference and extended his best wishes on the IFCBA 30th anniversary. Dr. Mikuriya expressed his appreciation for the role of customs brokers worldwide and for the contribution of business operators to customs work.

The WCO official launch of the study on the possible strategic review of the HS, in September 2022, was in the spotlight of the Conference. In this respect, the Secretary of the IFCBA, Ms. Carol West, shared the consolidated results of the replies of the IFCBA members to the survey.

**The IFCBA includes HS expert**

## FFFAI presents Customs Trade facilitation measures at IFCBA Conference- Addressed by WCO Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriya

practitioners who are committed to the progress of the HS strategic review project and who have substantially contributed already to the WCO Global Conference for the future of the HS, held in Brussels, in May 2019.

The WCO Secretariat represented by a WCO project officer, whose participation was funded by the Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF) of China, expressed its appreciation and assured that IFCBA input would be reflected in the study for the WCO members' consideration. Furthermore, she updated the customs brokers on the progress of the study, since its launch, addressed the comments expressed, and discussed the points raised by the participants.

Finally, within the framework of the Conference, the Chairperson of the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG), Mr. Jaime King, and the Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Private Sector Group, Mr. Kit Hickey, provided information on their main achievements over the past few years as a result of the opportunities provided by the WCO for the engagement with the private sector.

FFFAI also participated in this important Meet. Representing FFFAI, its Executive Committee Member Mr. Vikrant Gogia made a presentation at the IFCBA Conference to highlight the recent developments in Indian Customs with active collaboration from

the pan India apex body FFFAI. He also shared that the Indian Customs Act 1962 completes its 60 years and FFFAI shares the common Diamond jubilee year celebration.

Mr. Gogia emphasized the Indian Customs' various facilitation measures along with IT and faceless transaction initiatives,

**Turn to page -4 >>**

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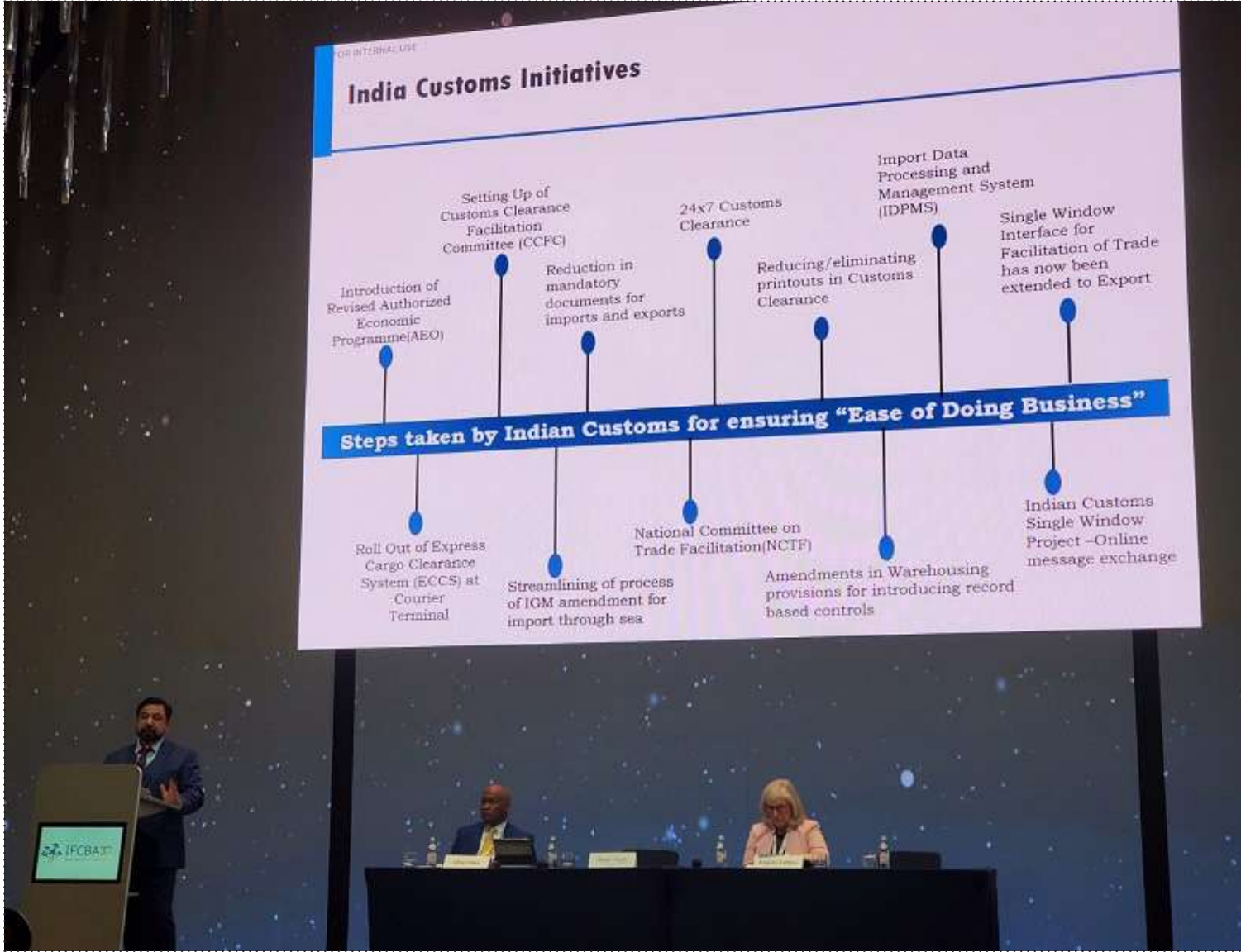
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FFAI presents Customs Trade facilitation measures at IFCBA..... From Page : 3



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The audience representing different countries from across the world strongly applauded the developments pertaining to ease of Customs Clearance and Customs Broking Business in India.

Mr Vikrant Gogia, EC Member FFAI speaking at the IFCBA Conference. Also present on the dais are Mr. Clive Coke, President, Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association of Jamaica (CBFFAJ) and Ms. Angela Collins, Director, Canadian Society of Customs Brokers (CSCB).

**Sagar Sandesh**  
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**MARINE NEWS**

NEW DELHI  
 Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Gujarat based container manufacturing firm first of its kind to be set up in the country has delivered 32 containers manufactured by them to the state owned Container Corporation of India.

When the container availability crisis gripped the Indian ports post corona Government of India swung into action and set up the first domestic container manufacturing plant at Bhavnagar in Gujarat.

The Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) has taken delivery of 32 containers manufactured by a Bhavnagar

**Gujarat based firm manufactures containers, first of its kind in the country**



Containers

(Gujarat)-based firm. Mr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health described the development as another important step towards the aim of 'self-reliant India.

Reducing dependence on foreign-made containers is an area of

focus for the government. Towards this end, CONCOR has been placing orders for domestically manufactured boxes, thereby giving a huge fillip to the nascent industry.

China is currently the global leader in container production.

**MARINE NEWS**



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

# South Korea unveils its Indo-Pacific strategy will advance SPL ties with India

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

South Korea said it "will increase strategic communication and cooperation through high-level exchanges in foreign affairs and defense, while strengthening the foundation for enhanced economic cooperation by upgrading the ROK-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement."

**The 43-page document, titled "Strategy for a Free, Peaceful, and**

**Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region," also talks about its approach with the US, China and Japan, among other nations.**

The document says the stability of the regional order is being eroded by rising uncertainties in the security environment, and there is growing concern about "democratic backsliding and challenges to universal values such as freedom, the rule of law, and human rights." It adds: "The fabric of the international free-trade



South Korea to increase strategic communication with India under new Indo-Pacific strategy

order that previously underpinned a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific is unravelling, while the region's economic growth engine is losing momentum." Calling China a key

partner for achieving regional peace, the strategy says, "We will nurture a sounder and more mature relationship as we pursue shared interests based on mutual respect and reciprocity, guided by international norms and rules."

**By resuming the ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit and reinforcing the capacity and structure of the trilateral cooperation secretariat, we will seek new cooperation in North East Asia**

# VLCC tanker Captain of Indian nationality died on board during voyage

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

VLCC tanker WEN YAO reported Master's death on Dec 27,

while sailing off Kochi port, India, Arabian sea..

Tanker ballasting from Singapore to UAE interrupted her voyage and sailed to Kochi Anchorage,

where she anchored in the afternoon Dec 28.

Body of 43-year old Captain, of Indian nationality, was transferred to hospital, understood he

died from illness, no foul play suspected

As of evening Dec 28, tanker remained anchored at Kochi anchorage.



VLCC tanker WEN YAO

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## MARINE NEWS



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

## Egypt's Currency Crisis is creating a Massive Port Backlog



Courtesy Alexandria Port Authority

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

A major hard currency crisis in Egypt is causing a massive backlog across the country's ports, where goods worth \$9.5 billion are stuck - even as the government engages in desperate measures to facilitate their release and avoid a spike in the prices of essential commodities.

With Egypt sinking deeper into a prolonged economic crisis, exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the country's ports have recently been clogging up with goods due to a dollar shortage, a crisis which has been worsened by a substantial nosedive of the Egyptian pound. The currency has depreciated by about 36 percent since the beginning of the year.

Over the period from December 1-23, the government - which has imposed restrictions on imports to save foreign currency - managed to release goods worth \$5 billion. Other cargoes worth \$9.5 billion are still being held at the country's ports awaiting the securing of dollars required to release them. Priority is being given to food

products, food manufacturing components, medicines and production goods.

The prime minister also ordered the formulation of a plan to release the remaining goods that are clogging the country's ports, a crisis worsened by import restrictions put in place by the government to conserve foreign currency.


**The shortage of hard currency needed to operate Egypt's import-heavy economy has affected supply lines in almost every sector and resulted in a sharp increase in prices.**

**Egypt has been one of the biggest innocent casualties of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.**

The country is a net importer of both fuel and food commodities and depends hugely on tourists from Eastern Europe for forex earnings. Overall, Egypt imports 62 percent of its wheat needs, 82 percent of which come from both Russia and Ukraine. In 2021, Eastern Europe accounted for half of the eight million tourists who visited the country, according to government data.

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## Ship Insurers to Cancel War Cover for Russia, Ukraine from Jan. 1

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Ship insurers are cancelling war-risk coverage across Russia, Ukraine and Belarus from January, leaving cargo and freight companies liable for major losses linked to the ongoing conflict.

At least 12 of the 13 Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs – which cover 90% of the world's ocean-going ships, including those from the UK and the US – said they would no longer be able to provide coverage to clients because reinsurers were exiting the region as a result of financial losses.

Most ships buy P&I cover from the 13 clubs, which are mutuals owned



The war in Ukraine is expected to cost the global insurance industry anywhere from £10bn to £12bn overall, according to recent industry estimates.

by the shipping companies whose fleets they cover, to protect against risks such as collisions, property damage, pollution, environmental damage and removal of wrecks.

The cancellations, first reported by Reuters, mean it could be harder for ship owners or

charterers to secure insurance in the new year, resulting in higher prices and some shipping firms either deciding to avoid the region or to sail without coverage.

It is the first time reinsurers have had an opportunity to cancel coverage for clients since

Russia invaded Ukraine in February, given that most contracts run on a 12-month basis and renew on 1 January.

The UK club notice explained there would no longer be coverage for loss or damage arising from the war in Ukraine, or in any territory where Russian forces are engaged in conflict across Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. That includes any seizures, arrest or restrained movement of ships and cargo in those regions.

In a notice to its members last week UK P&I club said: "Due to the impact of losses from the Russian/Ukrainian situation affecting the availability

of global insurance and reinsurance capacity, the club's reinsurers are no longer able to secure reinsurance for war risk exposure to Russian, Ukrainian or Belarus territorial risks."

The war in Ukraine is expected to cost the global insurance industry anywhere from £10bn to £12bn overall, according to recent industry estimates.

The cancelled insurance contracts have since prompted government intervention... The request reportedly includes gas from the Sakhalin-2 project, which is based on an island off the east coast of Russia, near Japan. The project is part-owned by Russia's state-owned Gazprom and Japanese trading houses. The project accounts for 9% of Japan's LNG imports.

### EXIM NEWS

## India could ban COVID-related exports as cases rise, sources say

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service



Centre anticipates increase in cases in January.

India may soon impose a ban on COVID-related exports such as PPE kits, surgical masks and ventilators, CNBC-TV18 Awaaz reported on Thursday 29 Dec.

**Authorities are constantly monitoring the export of paracetamol and PPE kits and will now monitor exports of ventilators and surgical masks to ensure there is no such shortage in India.**

According to sources, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had called for a meeting regarding

this development, during which several decisions were taken.

India reported 188 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, bringing the total to 4,46,77,647. The Centre on Wednesday said they anticipate a sharp increase in cases in India in January. **The coming weeks are critical, they said.**

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on December 24 that the Air Suvidha portal would be implemented after talks with the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

**Once 'Air Suvidha' is implemented, RT-PCR would be compulsory for passengers arriving from China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Bangkok, Mandaviya said.**

The United States as well on Wednesday announced that it will require all travellers from China to take a COVID-19 test no more than two days before their travel

and provide a negative test before boarding their flight. **This testing rule applies to anyone over the age of two years.**



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## MARINE NEWS

### India makes its stand clear on relations with China and Pakistan

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

External Affairs minister S Jaishankar has sent a stern message to Pakistan and China as he interacted with the Indian community in Cyprus.

**India wants good neighborly relations with everybody but that does not mean "excusing" terrorism, the foreign minister said in a veiled dig without naming Pakistan.**

**On border issues with China, Jaishankar said India will never agree to any attempt to change the Line of Actual Control unilaterally.**

The statements come days after Chinese foreign Minister Wangi Yi expressed his country's



External Affairs minister S Jaishankar

intent to improve relations with India notwithstanding the border skirmishes..

"No country has suffered as much from terrorism as India has and we have been very clear that we will never accept it or normalize it. We will never allow terrorism to force us to the negotiation table. We want good neighborly relations with everybody but that does not mean excusing or looking away or rationalizing terrorism. That we are very clear," Jaishankar said.

"The second, of course, is our borders. The challenges intensified during the Covid period. And you all know that the state of our relations with China are not normal because we will not agree to any attempt to change the Line of Actual Control unilaterally," Jaishankar added.

On the national security side, Jaishankar said the message that goes out from India is of firmness. "On diplomacy, I can say that at this time there is a lot of expectation from India as India is being seen today as a strong economy and one that will contribute to the problems.

We are also seen as a country which is independent and has the courage to stand up. Also, a country which is able to bring very different countries which are not able to deal with each other," Jaishankar said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

(To Read Full News Please go to [www.sagarsandesh.in](http://www.sagarsandesh.in))

### Union minister Gadkari to inspect Bengaluru Mysuru expressway

Karnataka Public works minister CC Patil said Highways minister Nitin Gadkari will inspect Bengaluru – Mysuru expressway on

January 5, amidst reports of excessive flooding of the expressways during the recent monsoon.



### Karan Adani, Anant Ambani to be part of Maharashtra Govt's EAC, headed by Tata Sons Chairm

Chief Minister Shri Eknath Shinde announced in the state assembly on Thursday, 29 Dec, and the Maharashtra Government on Friday

released a government resolution on the establishment of a 21 member Economic Advisory Committee (EAC) headed by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekharan.



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## MARINE NEWS



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

## Hundreds Evacuated from Staten Island Ferry after Engine Room Fire

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Five people were injured and hundreds more evacuated after a fire broke out aboard a ferry traveling from Manhattan to Staten Island on Thursday evening, 22 Dec officials said.

The Sandy Ground, one of the Staten Island Ferry's newly commissioned Ollis-class vessels, was carrying 868 passengers and 16 crew members when the engine room fire started shortly after 5 p.m., FDNY Deputy Assistant Chief Frank Leeb said during a press conference.



(Photo courtesy NYPD)

**First responders from the FDNY and NYPD, as well as commercial tugs and other passenger vessels, hurried to the scene to assist the fire-stricken ferry, which had anchored near Bayonne, N.J. as firefighters battled the blaze.**

Passengers on board the Sandy Ground received life jackets, and many were transferred to other ferries, including those operated by New York Waterway and Hornblower's NYC Ferry. "A decision was made to use other ferries to offload the passengers, as that was

a safer alternative than putting them on to fire or police boats," Leeb said.

**Other passengers remained on board as the Sandy Ground was towed to the St. George ferry terminal in Staten Island.**

The five injuries were related to minor smoke inhalation, and three of the injured people were taken to local hospitals, officials said.

The fire had been contained by the time FDNY responders arrived, Leeb said, noting that the ferry crew had sealed off access and injected CO2 into the engine room to

stifle the flames. Captain John Garvey, Deputy Commissioner for Ferries and the Chief Operations Officer for the Staten Island Ferry at NYC DOT, said during the press conference that all safety systems on board the Sandy Ground functioned properly and that the cause of the incident is unknown ahead of a pending U.S. Coast Guard investigation.

The 320-foot-long Sandy Ground entered service earlier this year as the second of three new 4,500-passenger Ollis-class ferries built by Panama City, Fla.-based Eastern Shipbuilding Group for NYC's Staten Island Ferry service.

## West acts to enforce the price cap on Russian crude exports

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU



Russian crude

The west has started taking action to enforce the price cap on Russian crude and petroleum products exports. Ship insurers are cancelling war-risk coverage across Russia, Ukraine and Belarus from January, leaving cargo and freight companies liable for major losses linked to the ongoing conflict. At least 12 of the 13 Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs – which cover 90 per cent of the world's ocean-going ships, including those from the UK and the US – said they would no longer be able to provide coverage to clients because reinsurers were exiting the region as a result of financial losses.

Most ships buy P&I cover from the 13 clubs, which are mutuals owned by the shipping companies whose fleets they cover, to protect against risks such as collisions, property damage, pollution, environmental damage and removal of wrecks. The

cancellations, first reported by Reuters, mean it could be harder for ship owners or charterers to secure insurance in the New Year, resulting in higher prices and some shipping firms either deciding to avoid the region or to sail without coverage.

It is the first time reinsurers have had an opportunity to cancel coverage for clients since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, given that most contracts run on a 12-month basis and renew on 1 January. The UK club notice explained there would no longer be coverage for loss or damage arising from the war in Ukraine, or in any territory where Russian forces are engaged in conflict across Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. That includes any seizures, arrest or restrained movement of ships and cargo in those regions.

In a notice to its members last week UK P&I club said: "Due to the impact of losses from the Russian/Ukrainian situation affecting the availability of global insurance and reinsurance capacity, the club's reinsurers are no longer able to secure reinsurance for war risk exposure to Russian, Ukrainian or Belarus territorial risks." Some of the biggest providers

of reinsurance include Hannover Re, Munich Re and Swiss Re, all

of which declined to comment. Lloyd's of London, whose members also provide reinsurance contracts, also declined a request for comment.

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*Happy New year*

*2023*

# CONTAINER TERMINAL NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

## Exports to Australia start from Adani terminal at Kamarajar port Ennore

CHENNAI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Adani managed container terminal at Kamarajar port Ennore has commenced export consignment on the very day the India Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade agreement came into effect on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Exports from Tamil Nadu expected to cross 500 million US dollars this fiscal and the free trade agreement with Australia concluded recently would contribute immensely to reach the figure.



Container terminal at Kamarajar port, Ennore

The flagging off ceremony of the export consignments from Tamil Nadu under ECTA was held at the Adani Ennore Container Terminal in the presence of Mr Israr Ahmed, Past Chairman FIEO, Mr Vishwas BN, ITS Jt. DGFT, Chennai,

Mr Balaji, IRS, Adtl Commissioner of Customs, Chennai, Mr Unnikrishnan AR, MD, Saint Gobain India Pvt Ltd., Mr Ramde Karangiya, Container Terminal Head, Adani Ennore Container Terminal Ltd, Mr. Vivek Nair, Head Container Sales at Adani

Ennore Container Terminal Ltd, other senior officials from Zonal DGFT, FIEO, Ennore Port and leading exporters to Australia.

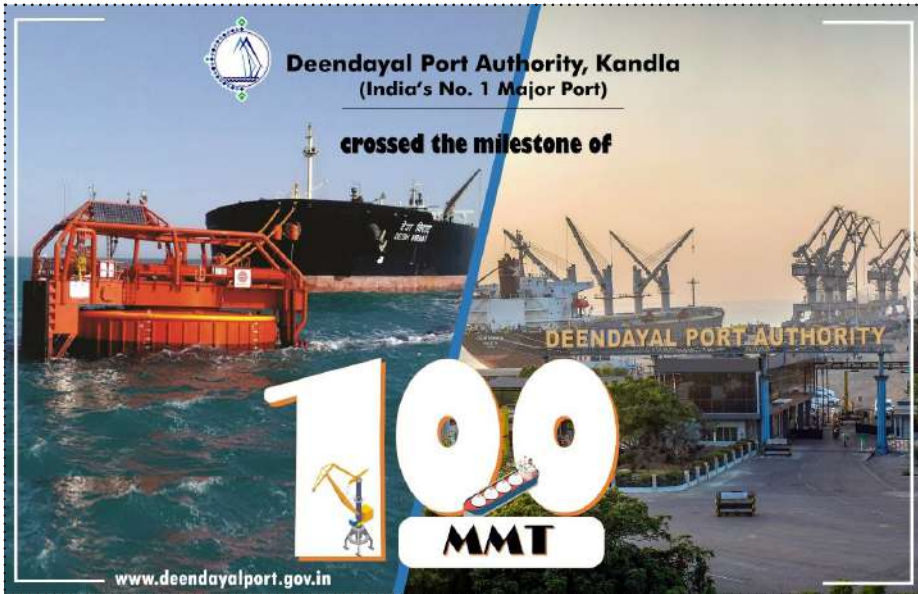
Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner. India-Australia bilateral trade for both merchandise and services was valued at 27.5 billion US dollars in 2021. Even though India's exports to Australia have considerably increased over the years, there remains scope for increased development,

as under ECTA, Indian exporters now stand to gain preferential access to untapped areas of the Australian market

The Adani Ennore Container Terminal (AECT) is a state-of-the-art box terminal 30 km north of Chennai Port. Located strategically, AECT offers 24x7 congestion-free approach roads for seamless cargo movement and on-dock rail siding services to Bengaluru presenting deep hinterland reach. It's also well connected to all Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in the primary hinterland of Chennai and 4 National Highways.

## PORT NEWS

# Deendayal Port Authority crossed the landmark of handling 100 MMT cargo traffic in the FY 2022-23



Deendayal Port

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

On 28-12-2022, Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla has crossed the landmark of handling 100 MMT cargo traffic in the FY 2022-23, thereby becoming the first Major Port to cross the milestone in only 3 Quarters of a fiscal year with a growth of 6.96% over the corresponding period of

the last fiscal. Incidentally, DPA had achieved the milestone on 11-01-2022 in the last FY.

Shri S.K. Mehta, IFS, Chairman & Shri Nandeesh Shukla, IRTS, Dy. Chairman congratulated team DPA along with Employees, Workers, Trade Unions, Port Users & Stakeholders for their continuous support towards making DPA a MEGA PORT with State-of-the-Art handling facility

## 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 - Nhasvesha International Container Terminal
- NSIGT - Nhasvesha International Gateway Terminal
- JNPCT - Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal
- GTI - Gateway Terminals India
- BMCT - Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals
- ICIT - 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

## CONTAINER TERMINAL NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

# Vizhinjam port would be completed on time

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Vizhinjam International Seaport project would be completed on time despite the coastal protest resulting in a loss of 100 work days. According to him the speed of work would be enhanced so that the first ship would dock at the port during Onam next year, Kerala Ports Minister Ahamed



Vizhinjam port

Devarkovil informed the company has agreed to increase the number of state assembly. He said the construction rocks to be brought in

and the number of barges for the construction of breakwaters. A 400-meter berth will be completed immediately.

"The port is likely to bring indirect economic growth. It will pave the way for more warehouses, hotels and residential buildings. The company has agreed to hire mostly the local population for the work," said Devarkovil.

The government has completed the work of building to provide skill training to the youth in order to make them

employable. The survey for a logistic park that has the potential to provide jobs for over 10,000 people, has started.

The port would attract more mother ships which hitherto used the Colombo port. "At present, 75 per cent of the containers for India are handled at Colombo. The entrepreneurs spent Rs10,000 per container for bringing containers unloaded at foreign ports. Besides, the Vizhinjam port will enhance the potential of ports in Kollam and Bepore," said the minister.

## MINISTRYNEWS

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service



Shri Ajit Kumar Saxena

## Shri Ajit Kumar Saxena joins as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of MOIL

Shri Ajit Kumar Saxena assumes charge as Chairman-Cum-Managing Director of MOIL Limited.

Prior to this assignment, Shri Saxena held the position of Director (Operations) at RINL-Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant. He has 36 years' experience in Steel Sector with wide experience in technical, operational and project management areas.

He started his career as a Management Trainee (Technical) in Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) in 1986 and thereafter, held various positions during his long tenure in SAIL such as Chief

General Manager, Mills, IISCO, Burnpur and General Manager, Bhilai Steel Plant, etc.

Shri Saxena holds B. Tech degree from Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University in Metallurgy and has also acquired an MBA. He is a recipient of "Young Metallurgy of the year Award" for the year 2000 from Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India.

## MARINE NEWS

# Drones to add strength to Maritime surveillance of the coast guards

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU



These drones are going to assist in Search and Rescue (SAR), both by day as well as night

The Coast Guard has concluded maiden contract for 10 multi-copter (VTOL) drones in consonance with Government of India's policy of embracing Drone

Technology, in a major boost to Marine surveillance in Indian Ocean region and interdiction capabilities.

These drones are capable of being launched from both Ships whilst underway, as well as Shore Stations and will play a significant role in the reach if the Coastguard unit during Surveillance & Security operations.

In addition, these drones are going to assist in Search and Rescue (SAR), both by day as well as night.

The ICG plans to induct 100 additional drones by 2025, to meet the ever-growing challenges in India's Maritime Zones and Search & Rescue Region.



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## PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

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

# Colombo Dockyard to Repair Ships While Afloat

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The majority of vessels directed to HIP for afloat repairs come with damages experienced below the water line. CDPLC carries out permanent repairs on these ships with service assistance from HIP.

"Usually repairs of this nature require us to bring the vessel into dry docks, but we are confident of doing such operations efficiently at HIP. HIP has the berthing capacity and capability to handle afloat repairs along with our expert team. Handling



HIP to repair vessels afloat

dry docking services afloat is a valuable saving of time for our vessels, especially when they are carrying cargo and incurring demurrage costs. The

facilities available at HIP makes this complex service possible, and we are able to carry out our permanent repairs without the ship having to go elsewhere

with a temporary fix," says Praneeth Rajapakse, Head of Afloat Repairs, CDPLC.

**Recently, CDPLC directed MV Sandpiper for afloat repairs at HIP.**

The Sandpiper had damaged its stern tube aft seal unit during a cargo operation in Bangladesh and sought dry docking services. However, CDPLC recommended afloat repairs at HIP which was a much more convenient and cost-effective solution.

"HIP being the closest in the region to east west shipping lanes, makes the port an ideal destination for ships requiring any type of repairs and we

have the necessary skills, and deep draft berthing capacity to handle afloat services, which will be a value addition to the shipping industry. We plan on aggressively promoting this service in the coming year," says Tissa Wickramasinghe, COO of Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG).

**The MV Sandpiper which completed the repairs successfully, is now back in operation.**

An equally complex repair was handled by CDPLC on MV Sunny Hill, while she was berthed at Hambantota International Port in March this year.

## LOGISTIC NEWS

# PM Gati Shakti Portal access likely to be opened up for private companies

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The union government may throw open its digital infrastructure tool PM Gati Shakti Master Plan to the private sector in order to fast-track implementation of key infra projects, officials aware of the development said.



The PM Gati Shakti platform is currently accessible only by government departments, state agencies and public private partnership (PPP) projects. Now, the plan is to give limited access to private sector companies which would share information on the availability of land and clearances required to take projects forward.

"The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is currently designed to aid infrastructure planning. It has a centralised portal that united the infrastructural initiatives planned

and initiated by 16 central ministries and departments, including railways, roads and highways. Several private sector project proponents could also gain a lot from this initiative. So, certain changes in Gati Shakti architecture are being worked upon that would provide even pure private sector projects to get the advantages of planned infra development," the official added.

The digital infrastructure developed by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) aimed at assisting projects has over 2,000 layers of information.

The platform would also work out the entire logistical planning for any infrastructure project and point out the gaps that could be fixed with separate intervention of the central and state governments.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the Gati Shakti Yojana, a ₹100 trillion project for developing 'holistic infrastructure' in India on the 75th Independence Day.

The touchstone of the master plan is world-class, modern infrastructure and logistics synergy among different modes of movement of both people and goods, and location of projects.

India's logistics sector is largely unorganized and fragmented, making logistics costs in the country as high as 14-15% of the GDP compared with 7-8% in Singapore and the US.



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## Normalcy returns to Karikal Port



Karikal port

CHENNAI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The draft restriction imposed on vessels entering Karaikal port in central Tamil Nadu coast following the cyclone Mandous last fortnight has been withdrawn following the virtual withdrawal of the North East monsoon from the East coast.

Further to Karaikal Port Trade Circular dated December 17, regarding 'Declaration of Force Majeure and Reduction

in draft to 12.5 meters after the effects of cyclone Mandous', the port authorities have declared it to be null and void.

The maximum draft for vessels calling at Karaikal Port is 13.5 meters at 1.020 density. **Dredging is presently underway and a revised draft will be advised in due course, as per the port's Trade Circular dated December 28.**

The port has been taken over by the Adani ports recently.

## Ports Ministry issues clarification on Vessel Related Charges

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Ports Ministry has clarified that the Vessel Related Charges levied by Major Ports and the State Maritime Boards with respect to minor ports should continue to be governed by section 10 of the Marine Aids to Navigation act 2021 and in accordance with the extant rules and notifications issued by them

It is clarified that the charges levied and collected by the State Maritime Boards, Major Port Authorities, etc. for providing respective Vessel Traffic Services,

in their respective jurisdiction, shall continue to be governed in



accordance with the extant rules and notifications issued by them, till further orders.

The clarification has been issued in view of the passage Major ports act which provides for functional autonomy to port to decide the port levies in accordance with the local market conditions.

Under the provisions of Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways vide Executive Order it is clarified that the management of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) shall continue to be with the concerned State Maritime Boards and Port Authorities; and all the aspects related with the VTS shall continue to be governed in accordance with the extant Rules and Regulations framed by them for the management of the VTS.



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*Happy*  
*new year*  
**2023**



## MARINE NEWS



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

## Multiple objections filed on SCI demerger scheme ahead of crucial MCA hearing to clear the plan

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

At least a dozen objections have been filed till Monday 26 Dec before the Ministry of Corporate Affairs by vendors and stakeholders, including employees' union and former employees of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI), to the proposed demerger of the core and non-core assets of the national carrier ahead of privatisation.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has called a final hearing on the demerger scheme on Thursday (29 December). The Shipping Corporation of India Officers' Association



Many objections filed before Ministry of Corporate Affairs against the proposed demerger, seeking protection of the interests of the employees

(SCIOA) and the Shipping Corporation of India Staff Union (SCISU) have sought protection of employees' interest during privatisation in a submission to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The Unions reiterated

their views during a 16 December meeting convened by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, multiple sources briefed on the discussions, said.

Separately, the SCI Officers' Association filed a writ petition in the Bombay

High Court a few months ago, seeking "injunction/ad interim reliefs and protection with regards to numerous employee related issues and legitimate benefits". The petition is yet to be decided.

Those who have filed the objections have urged the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to put the demerger scheme on "hold", "re-look and review" the demerger process and "refrain" from passing orders until the issues raised by them are settled. "A no objection certificate (NOC) from the SCIOA for the demerger scheme, therefore, is not only desirable but also a must." the Unions said.

Objections have also been filed relating to retired employees who have paid 4 percent of their salary while in service for availing the benefit of post retirement medical scheme (PRMS)

provided by the company to its exemployees and their dependents.

The Unions have also expressed concern over the future of the PRMS and the trust that runs the scheme post privatisation of SCI. Haldar has also flagged issues such as non-payment of full performance related pay (PRP) to employees who have retired post 2017.

Naresh Birwadkar, General Secretary, Forward Seamen's Union of India (FUSI), has filed objections to the demerger scheme on the grounds that many seafarers employed with SCI have not been paid pay revision arrears on which cases are pending in the Supreme Court and the Bombay High Court as well as non-payment of funds collected for the welfare of seafarers and claims relating to Seamen's Provident Fund, gratuity and death compensation.

## Bail denied to the former Indian naval officers



MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

A Qatar court has declined to grant bail to Eight former Indian Naval Officers detained in the Gulf country on unspecified charges since August this year. This is the fourth time the Gulf country's courts have decided against granting them bail.

Due to diplomatic efforts launched by India the Gulf country offered consular access to the former naval officers.

As per the legal strategy adopted, another plea for bail is likely to be submitted on the New Year day according to sources. But if the move failed to click the former naval

officers have to remain in solitary confinement for one more month

Though four months have passed, no charges have been made against these detained officers. The detained officers are facing medical issues due to stress and anxiety and family members are eager to see them being repatriated to India. We are also trying to facilitate family members to get visas to travel to Qatar," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

All hopes of the families now rest on the appeal that the officers will make on the New Year day to consider their bail plea. The former naval officers were employed in a Qatar's naval firm.



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Wishing you a Happy and Prosperous  
**New Year**

2023



# SEAFARER NEWS

"Worrying will never change the outcome"

## Report: EU Considers Filipino Seafarer Ban over Training Deficiencies

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The European Commission is considering a ban on Filipino seafarers working on ships flagged in the European Union according to the report in the German news outlet Deutsche Welle.

According to the newspaper, at issue is years of substandard maritime training for Filipino seafarers failing to meet the international standards for maritime safety. If the EU follows through on this ban, it could be a devastating blow to one of the leading professions for Filipinos.

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) according to the German newspaper published a



EMSA's report identified deficiencies in the training of Filipino seafarers (file photo)

report in 2022 updating a list of deficiencies the agency believes exist in the current training for Filipino seafarers.

EMSA has been citing deficiencies in the training protocols since 2006 with the government of the Philippines promising to address the issues identified. According to the report, the EMSA report specified that the training and

certification in Philippine maritime education institutions fell short of the guidelines mandated by the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.

The Philippines government depends on private educational institutions to provide the training but critics say it

has not provided sufficient subsidies to upgrade the facilities.

The Philippines counters that it is committed to upholding the standards and has been able to address EMSA's concerns significantly reducing the number of audit findings over the years. The Philippines' new president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., recently met with European Union officials and assured them that his country is committed to addressing the issues and complying with European regulations.

**The Philippines is the world's largest provider of seafarers according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.** Between 380,000 and 400,000 Filipinos work in various

positions at sea. According to some reports, the Philippines accounts for as much as a quarter of all seafarers currently working on merchant ships.

If the European Commission adopts EMSA's report and moves forward with a ban from employing Filipinos on merchant ships, the EU would stop recognizing the competency certificates issued by the Philippines to seafarers. Existing certificates would be recognized until they expire but Filipino seafarers would not be permitted to apply for jobs on ships flagged in the EU with new or renewed certificates.

**The European Commission, according to Deutsche Welle, is due to make its decision possibly by the end of the first quarter of 2023.**

### EXIM NEWS

## India's NIRYAT portal to monitor export targets in real time

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

India's Department of Commerce (DoC) has developed the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT) portal—a real-time online monitoring system—to supplement the offline monitoring of export performance.

**NIRYAT, which was launched in June 2022, covers 200 countries / territories by 31 commodity groups via a digitised data-driven framework** for facilitating timely policy making/interventions in international trade, India's DoC, Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in its Year End Review 2022.

The portal also displays state/UT wise export performance with



respect to 31 commodity groups. It is accessible to government stakeholders (including embassies/HCs/missions) and export promotion councils (EPCs)/commodity boards / authorities, etc through individual login and password, for regular monitoring of the export performance of their respective jurisdictions and to take necessary action, wherever required.

**Moreover, the DoC has said that a public portal has been created and is now accessible to all.**

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**HAPPY New Year**



## Tackling air pollution from ships: three facts about the freshly adopted Med SOx ECA

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

On 15 December 2022 the 79th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) adopted the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA), with effect from 1 May 2025, to further limit air pollution from ships, pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

The Mediterranean Sea has thus become the fifth area worldwide to be designated as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur



Tackling air pollution from ships

Oxides and Particulate Matter.

Here are three facts illustrating the importance of Med SOx ECA in the Mediterranean and beyond:

### Tailwind to greener shipping in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean Sea is home to some of the busiest maritime routes in the world, supporting 20 per cent of seaborne trade.

Once it comes into

effect on 1 May 2025, ships operating in Med SOx ECA will be required to comply with a limit for sulphur content in fuel oil that is a fifth of the legal limit outside this area (0.10 per cent mass by mass (m/m), compared with 0.50 per cent m/m allowed outside Med SOx ECA).

With this achievement secured, the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system will direct its attention to Nitrogen

Oxides (NOx), another type of air pollutants emitted by ships, and **will continue to support IMO's work on the decarbonization of international shipping.**

### Considerable benefits for people and nature

Med SOx ECA will translate into a 78.7 per cent drop in SOx emissions and an annual reduction of 8.5 million tonnes of SOx released into the atmosphere. In addition, emissions of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) will be slashed by 23.7 per cent.

Lower levels of pollutants will benefit aquatic and land ecosystems, notably by preventing acidification.

### Environmental multi lateralism at its best

UNEP / MAP acted

as a forum for the intergovernmental negotiations on the Med SOx ECA and catalysed progress at the regional level, including through the scientific and technical support provided by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre.

**The next step will be for UNEP/MAP to join forces with IMO and REMPEC to secure the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI by the six Mediterranean countries that have not yet done so.** Securing this ratification by 1 May 2024 is required to ensure the uniform and effective application of Med SOx ECA when it comes into force on 1 May 2025

## EXIM NEWS

MUMBAI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal exuded confidence that at least two free trade agreements (FTAs) could be clinched by India in 2023.

**India is engaged in FTA** talks with a number of key economies, including the UK, Canada, the EU and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC). Moreover, it will likely start negotiations for a broader FTA with Australia in January. While Goyal didn't name any potential FTA partner, official sources expected India to clinch such pacts with at least the UK and Canada in 2023.

Given that negotiations with so many countries are going on simultaneously,

## India to conclude 2 more Free Trade Agreements in 2023 says Commerce Minister



Minister Piyush Goyal

**the commerce ministry does not have the bandwidth to accede to requests for FTA talks by smaller trading partners like New Zealand** (annual trade with New Zealand stands at just 350 million US dollars), Goyal indicated.

Speaking at an event

industry's competitiveness in manufacturing as well as exports, he added.

The Commerce Minister handed over certificates of origin for the first batch of consignments of Indian goods that would get preferential access under the ECTA. The FTA will benefit a large number of sectors, including textiles, gems and jewellery and also information technology, he added.

**The implementation of the ECTA will also lead to the abolition of double taxation on IT services provided by Indian firms in Australia from April 1, 2023.** Canberra had agreed to tweak its domestic law to stop taxing the offshore income of Indian firms

providing technical support there, a pledge that was part of the India Australia ECTA.

Using the provisions of the 1991 India-Australia double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA), Australia has been taxing income generated from offshore IT services rendered from India as royalty, even when the same income is being taxed in India as well. This is contrary to the very spirit of such a DTAA and the anomaly is expected to have cost Indian IT companies about 1.3 billion US dollars since 2012, according to an industry estimate.

Mr.Goyal said with the elimination of the double taxation, the IT and ITeS industry will save millions of dollars.. It will give India "the competitive edge" and also create a lot many jobs, he added.





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BHUVANESHWAR  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Coal evacuation from the country's largest coalfields at Talcher to Paradip port received a boost with the commissioning of railway link from Angul to Balram implemented at a cost of Rs Three hundred c Crores.

**Union Coal Minister Prahalad Joshi inaugurated the fourteen kilometer rail link on December 29th.**

With the commissioning of the fourteen kilometer new railway line the turnover of the coal mines could be stepped by forty thousand tons a day. The rail link will enable the Coal fields to dispatch coal by 10 more rakes daily.

Constructed by MCRL (Mahanadi Coal Railway Ltd), a joint venture company of MCL, IRCON

## Coal evacuation to get a boost with the commissioning of a new Rly line in Odisha



Coal evacuation by rail

International Ltd, and IDCO, the Angul-Balram rail link is the first phase of a total 68-km-long inner corridor linking Angul-Balram-Putugadia-

Jarapada-Tentuloi, which will cater to the coal mines of Talcher coalfields in Angul district of Odisha.

The inner corridor is being implemented by

MCRL in two phases. In the first phase, the 14-km-long Angul-Balram rail link has now been commissioned.

In the second phase 54-km-long Balram-Putugadia-

Jarapada-Tentuloi rail link would be completed.

**IRCON International Ltd is the implementing agency of this project, being developed at an estimated total cost of Rs 1,700 crore.**

MCL, as a representative of the Ministry of Coal, has 64 percent equity shares, while IRCON, representing the Ministry of Railways, has 26 percent, and IDCO, representing the government of Odisha, has 10 percent equity shares. This JV was formed in 2015 to undertake project development, financing, and implementation of a common rail corridor for the identified coal projects in the state of Odisha.

**The rail link will also facilitate the evacuation of dry fuel from the coal blocks allotted to miners other than Coal India in Talcher coalfields.**

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

## EXIM TREND

# Export consignments under India- Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The recently concluded India - Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) commenced operation from 29th December, 2022, covers 90% of bilateral trade between both the countries, while India will benefit preferential access to 100% of its export products to Australia.

The flagging off ceremony of the export consignments from Tamil Nadu under ECTA was held on 29th December at Ennore Adani Container Terminal in the presence of Mr. Israr Ahmed, Past Chairman FIEO, Mr. Vishwas BN, ITS, Jt. DGFT, Chennai, Mr. Balaji, IRS, Addl. Commissioner of Customs, Chennai, Mr. Unnikrishnan AR, MD, Saint Globain India Pvt. Lt, Mr. Milind Sangtiani, Container Terminal Head, Adani Ennore Container Terminal Ltd, and other senior officials from O/o. Zonal DGFT, FIEO, Ennore Port and leading exporters to Australia. St.Globain's Float glasses consignment to Australia flagged off during the function. Glasses and building materials will be getting



Mr Balaji IRS, Additional Commissioner, Chennai Customs, Mr Vishwas B.N, ITS, Jt. DGFT, Chennai, Mr Israr Ahmed, Past Regional Chairman, FIEO SR, Mr Unnikrishnan K, Joint Director General, FIEO SR, Mr Unnikrishnan AR, Managing Director, Saint- Gobain India Private Limited, Chennai, Mr K.Hrushikesh Reddy, ITS during Flagging off Ceremony

Zero duty concession in Australia under ECTA.

Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner. India-Australia bilateral trade for both merchandise and services was valued at \$ 27.5 billion in 2021. Even though India's exports to Australia have considerably increased over the years, the scope for development still exists, as ECTA expected to

enable Indian exporters to obtain preferential access to the untapped Australian market.

Mr. Israr Ahmed Past Chairman FIEO said that Implementation of ECTA from 29th of December 2022 is expected to help Indian exporters, especially MSMEs to utilise opportunities in Australian market to its optimum potential. India's strength in Pharma products, Jewellery, Vehicles, Agricultural products including rice, Textiles & Garments, Handloom products, Leather Products, Organic Chemicals, Engineering & construction materials including float glasses, spices, etc. can be leveraged by the exporters in the region to gain more share in Australia's import basket.

Mr. Unnikrishnan AR, MD, St. Globain said that Australian Customers prefer Indian products over Chinese, but Indian exporters

need to adhere to delivery schedule and Quality to make use of FTA to our advantage.

According to FIEO, Textiles and Garments will gain immensely especially on the made-ups, apparel and garments along with opening of window for the handloom sector. Other segments which can gain larger market share within short term from Tamil Nadu is Gems and Jewellery, Leather and non-leather footwear segment, Handicraft, Auto parts, engineering products, etc. During the FY 21-22, export form Tamil Nadu to Australia was to the tune of USD 384 Million and during the current financial year form April to October export form TN was 322 Million USD and it is expected that during this year export form TN to Australia may cross USD 500 Million.

HSN code wise import tariffs in Australia under ECTA has already been updated in [www.indiantradeportal.in](http://www.indiantradeportal.in) by FIEO including Rules of Origin criteria for getting duty benefits and required standards and certification requirements for Australian Market.

## LOGISTICS NEWS

# CONCOR takes delivery of 32 'Made in India' Containers

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service



Containers taken delivery by CONCOR

Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) took delivery of 32 containers that are made in India by a container manufacturing firm in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. Dr.MansukhMandviya, Minister of Health and Family Welfare tweeted this information through his Twitter handle.

CONCOR towards

promoting Make-in-India and AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiatives, has provided a fillip to container manufacturing by placing orders for domestic production of containers. This aligns with India's plan to transform the maritime sector over the next 10 years and help ensure a consistent supply of Made in India containers while reducing the cost of trade.

In another development, Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), the leading international ship classification society, has completed prototype testing of indigenously manufactured containers in accordance with IMO International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC).

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## EXIM TREND

# Argentina and Brazil Plan Common Currency to Boost Trade

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Sergio Massa held meetings with Lula's economic team in Sao Paulo. Progress on the creation of a common currency for bilateral trade. It would not result in the elimination of the peso or the real.

Lula da Silva's return to power in Brazil will change the region's political course and strengthen integration.

**Bilateral meetings will be held on January 25 to "oil" the mechanism. They are already considering "Sur" ('south') as a possible name for it.**



The proposal for a common currency between Argentina and Brazil advances

"Two work meetings were held in order to make contact before the inauguration, which will be on January 1, and start coordinating some issues of mutual interest," explained a source familiar with the conversations. **The main focus**

was the creation of a common currency. The concept is different from a single currency because it does not include abolishing either country's national currency.

Government sources said that "the meeting was very good because the Brazilians have a very similar perspective to that of Massa, as they believe that **this is a good way to avoid going via the dollar.**"

According to the conversations, the idea is to make it a regional currency and that the rest of the South American countries can gradually join without having to

eliminate their national currencies. "The feasibility is realistic, even in terms of a rapid implementation. We are trying to include it in the list for Lula's trip to Buenos Aires, for the meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States", they explained.

One of the other issues that was addressed is the possibility—once this initiative is active—of generating a swap between pesos and reais to offset trade deficits that may exist in the bilateral balance. **This would mean that the government would not have to spend reserve dollars to pay for Brazilian imports.**

# FIEO's take on how the trade deal with Australia benefit Indian Exporters

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU



The Federation of Indian Exporters Organization (FIEO) said the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which has come into force on December 29th will benefit Indian exports from preferential duty market access in Australia for 98.3 per cent of its tariff lines

In a statement issued on December 30th **the EXIM Trade with Australia will further deepen from 1st January, 2023,**

just after 3 days, which will benefit India's labor-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, furniture, food and agricultural products, engineering products, medical devices, automobiles and specified Pharma products, said Dr A Sakthivel, President, FIEO.

On the other hand, India has provided preferential access to Australia on over 70 per cent of its tariff lines, covering 90 per cent of the value of Australia's exports to India, which are primarily raw materials like coal, copper, nickel, aluminum, manganese, wool, hides & skin, which will impart competitiveness to our manufacturing and exports added Dr Sakthivel.

In the First year, around 96.1 per cent of India's exports to Australia will be duty-free, starting

December 29, 2022 and 260 tariff lines pertaining to Beverages, spirits and vinegar (Chapter 22), Tobacco products (Chapter 24), Mineral fuels (Chapter 27), Organic chemicals (Chapter 29) and Soap, organic surface-active agents etc (Chapter 34), Miscellaneous chemical products (Chapter 38), Iron and steel (Chapter 72), Article of Iron and Steel (Chapter 73), Aluminum products (Chapter 76) and Medical devices and equipments (Chapter 90) will get preferential duty benefits from 29.12.2022, which will be further reduced by about 20 per cent of Most Favored Nation tariff from January 1.2023.

**Iron and Steel and article of Iron and Steel will face a 4 per cent customs duty against a normal tariff of 5 per cent while imported from India into Australia**

from 29th Dec, 2022 till 31st Dec, 2022, which will be reduced to 3 per cent from 1.1.2023. Besides, pharmaceutical sector will be getting expeditious approval as many of such drugs already have approval in the US/UK/EU/Canada/Japan, which will help to increase our share in a market of over 13 billion US dollars.

**Moreover, Australia has also provided additional market access and mobility facility for Indian professionals including chefs and yoga teachers.**

FIEO Chief said that India's goods exports to Australia will reach 15 billion US dollars by 2025 from 6.9 billion US dollars in 2021 taking full advantage of ECTA, while services should move to 10 billion US dollars by 2025 from 3.9 billion US dollars.

## LOGISTIC NEWS

# Zuari Bridge in Goa inaugurated

PANJIM  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Union Minister of Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated phase 1 of the New Zuari Bridge in Goa on December 29th.

Located on the Zuari river at Cortalim village on Margao-Panaji National Highway, the bridge aims to ease the traffic woes of the state.

**Under the 1st Phase,**



Zuari Bridge in Goa

the 4 Lane Right Hand Side Corridor of the 8 Lane Stayed Cable bridge has been inaugurated. The Rs.2530 Crore project

consists of the new bridge and the approaches from Bambolim to Verna and has a total project length of 13.20 Kilometers.

Speaking at the event, Mr Gadkari credited

the late Union Minister Manohar Parrikar as being one of the architects of both the Mandovi bridge and the new stayed cable bridge over the Zuari river. **The recent pace of construction of this project is also testament to the new technology that the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is using to build bridges across the country.** Goa-Mumbai Highway six lane will also be completed in the next 7 to 8 months.

Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said **the New Zuari Bridge will have a first of its kind revolving restaurant.**

The bridge will be a tourist attraction on its own. He added that the new bridge will ensure smooth flow of traffic between North and South Goa. He also used the occasion to pitch for a Light and Sound show around the bridge as well as a circular road connecting Port, Airport and Railways in the State.

# LOGISTICS (ROAD/RAIL/AVIATION)

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

## UP To Develop CFS & Dry Ports

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Land-locked Uttar Pradesh, which is aiming to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2027, will develop a network of dry ports and freight container stations to boost exports. **The state plans to develop a modern logistics ecosystem in partnership with private players.**

A dry port is an inland intermodal port directly linked to a seaport by roads or railway to facilitate faster movement

of export cargo. Under the UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022, the state will fast-track land allotments for logistics parks and offer a string of subsidies and incentives to attract private investments.

The state will support the private sector for the development of storage facilities, cold chains, multi-modal parks, container depots, and container freight stations infrastructure in the state.

“The fresh policy has been framed with an



UP plans to develop a modern logistics ecosystem in partnership with private players

objective of developing a strong logistics ecosystem and fostering an international business and investment environment to achieve the trillion-dollar economy vision,” a

government official said. The state targets to hike merchandise exports from Rs 1.56 trillion to nearly Rs 3 trillion in three years.

The government has said it would also leverage

the Varanasi-Haldia inland waterway to catalyse exports.

The state is planning to harness the comparatively cheaper cargo movement from Varanasi via the waterway to seaport in West Bengal to boost shipments of farm and dairy products, apart from micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) items.

The new policy will be effective for five years and replace the one promulgated in 2018. However, the incentives promised to private sector projects under the previous policy will remain in force.

## Govt intends to Modernize Railways

KOLKATA  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that the Union government is making record investments for railway infrastructure modernization.

**Stating that the doubling of tracks and electrification is underway at a record speed, he said that the eastern and western freight corridors will bring revolutionary changes to the economy of certain parts of the country.**

In an address after

virtually flagging off Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express, the Prime Minister said that railway stations, including New Jalpaiguri, are being developed on the lines of airports.

Earlier in the day, Modi virtually flagged off the express in the presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. He could not attend the function since his mother passed away and he had to attend the funeral

Also present on the

occasion were Governor C V Ananda Bose and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

**The seventh Vande Bharat Express started its maiden journey from Howrah Station to travel to New Jalpaiguri, the gateway to the Northeast.**

The train, which covers a distance of 564 km in 7.45 hours, will save three hours of travel time compared to other trains on the route, officials said. It will have three stoppages at Barsoi, Malda and Bolpur. The Vande Bharat Express with modern passenger amenities is likely to be



Vande Bharat express

preferred both by regular passengers, tea industry executives and tourists travelling to the Himalayas in North Bengal and Sikkim. The state-of-the-art train has 16 coaches, including two for drivers.

The CM also said work on four out of the five railway projects that Modi was scheduled to launch on December 30<sup>th</sup> were started during her tenure as railway minister fifteen years ago.

## TERMINAL NEWS

THIRUVANATHAPURAM  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Karan Adani, the CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, will meet Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on January 6 to discuss the progress of the Vizhinjam seaport project, which had been hit by Latin Catholic Church-led protests until recently according to local media reports.

He is expected to seek the release of rs 400 crores from the state government towards its contribution



Karan Adani, the CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd

to the project. The central government has released viability gap fund of nearly

## Adanis to seek funds from Kerala government

rs 500 crores to the project a few years ago.

This is the first meeting between the duo since the Church called off the protests and comes exactly one month after its climb down on December 6.

Sources said the Adani Group is bullish about the project as it feels that the economic crisis in Sri Lanka has inspired international container shipping firms to look for an alternative transshipment hub.

Adani Ports has apprised the state government of Karan Adani's visit and sought appointments

with the CM, Devarkovil, the chief secretary and the finance secretary on January 6 or 7, According to local media reports

“Adani Ports is keen to expedite the Vizhinjam port construction as it wants to complete the first phase as early as possible. The crisis in Sri Lanka has hit operations at the Colombo transshipment port, which will create huge opportunities for Vizhinjam port. Karan Adani may seek steps to clear the hurdles in the port's construction and discuss funding issues,” said an officer.

As per the agreement, the government has to provide 25 per cent of the estimated cost of the breakwater project once 30 per cent of the construction is completed. **The state will have to provide `400 crore immediately.**

Karan Adani may seek CM's intervention to ensure immediate payment of the dues. He may also demand that the government declare the area around the port project as a 'nofishing zone' as fishing activities are hampering the barge operations and leading to frequent standoff between fishermen and port authorities.



## EXIM TREND

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

# Grape exporters wary as Europe stares at possible recession

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Good crop and lower freight charges have failed to excite grape exporters from India as demand from the European markets continues to be low.

As European nations stare at a possible recession, demand for Indian table grapes is down by 20 per cent, which can seriously hamper the price realisation of the growers.

Vilas Shinde, Chairman

and Managing Director (CMD) of the Nashik-based Sahyadri Farms—the farmers' producer company—"This is a serious down turn at the start of the season itself," he said.

European countries like Netherlands account for 38 per cent of the Indian exports. Fears of an impending recession, Shinde, said could be the reason why demand is low this season.

**Ironically, this damper comes at a time when farmers have reported good quality of fruits**

with little or no adverse climatic events like heavy rains or hailstorms ahead of the harvest season. The season, Shinde said, would be delayed by a month and exports which normally start in the middle of December would start only towards the end of January.

Also freight charges, which had caused concerns last year, have more or less come back to normal levels. Freight charges had sky-rocketed due to the global logistic crisis, post-Covid. Due to lack of staff and containers, exports had slumped majorly.

Exports of over 2.5 lakh tonnes of table grapes are shipped to countries like the Netherlands, United



**European nations fear recession; export of Indian grapes to them now down by 20%**

Kingdom, Bangladesh and the Middle-East being the primary destinations. **Indian grapes fill in the slim window when grapes from South Africa is not easily available in the global market.**

Maharashtra is the

largest grower of table grapes in the country with the Nashik region being dubbed as California of the East. India has nearly 2 lakh hectares of area under grapes with Maharashtra alone accounting for 71 percent of the cultivation. Grapenet, a unique traceability system, allows farmers to register their export ready plots and prepare for harvest in the right time.

While the European markets might be down, Shinde mentioned that **they are optimistic about Chinese markets being open.** Last year, due to the strict Covid protocols of the country, Indian table grapes could not be sent to China.

# India has no plans to join the grain corridor

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

India currently has no plans of joining the Ukraine grain corridor though it has supplied grains to several countries affected by a spike in food prices, external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

**Political observers see this as a move not to antagonize Russia** which has emerged as key supplier

of crude and petroleum products at concessional rates.

Asked about the possibility of India joining the Ukraine grain corridor at a media briefing, Bagchi said: "We are aware of this, but we have been extending assistance to fellow countries bilaterally. I don't have any clarity whether we will join [the grain corridor, probably not, because our focus has been on bilateral

South-South mechanisms."

As of now, I have no intimation that we are looking to join this initiative. He said

**The grain corridor, formally known as the Black Sea Grain Initiative, was brokered by the UN to get around the Russian blockade of Ukrainian ports** that had stopped grain exports. An agreement signed on July 27 in Istanbul, Turkey,



MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

paved the way for the resumption of Ukrainian grain exports and helped stabilize spiraling food

prices worldwide. A Joint Coordination Centre, with representatives from Ukraine, Russia and Turkey and hosted in Istanbul, monitors the implementation of the agreement.

India's focus is on extending bilateral assistance, including through grain supplies, to countries affected by food insecurity. "We have extended such assistance to various countries, in Africa particularly but in other places also, in the last few months," he said.

## MARINE NEWS

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Allcargo Group's Founder & Chairman Shashi Kiran Shetty along with other prominent



7th Mumbai Sustainability Run flagged off

dignitaries like Padamshri Anuradha Poudwal and the renowned Hinduja Brothers from Hinduja Group flagged off 7th Edition of

# Allcargo Group's Founder & Chairman Shashi Kiran Shetty Flagged Off 7th Edition of Mumbai Sustainability Run

Mumbai Sustainability Run on the Christmas Day in Mumbai.

The event was organised by Vivekananda Youth Connect Foundation to raise the awareness amongst the community especially about environmental issues and taking steps towards greener and sustainable living. To support the sustainability initiative, 51 employees from Allcargo Group participated in the marathon along with the NGO partners: Save the

Children India and Saad Foundation.

**Allcargo Group has been participating in the marathons for over 12 years** especially the ones related to healthcare, education and environment conservation. Furthermore, driving sustainability across wider community Allcargo Group supported Rishikesh Sustainability run in the month of August 2022.

Through the group's stance on the environment

and sustainability it is taking various steps to raise awareness on environmental protection including planting fruit bearing trees in rural Maharashtra, cleaning of the beaches and monuments of national importance as well as building toilets in the school and community setting across rural India.

Flagging off the Mumbai Sustainability Run, Mr. Shashi Kiran Shetty, Founder and Chairman of Allcargo

Group commented, "At Allcargo Group our key aim is to minimise the impact on environment and we are slowly taking focused steps by building a culture of empathy that supports environmental and sustainability concerns. We are integrating sustainability across our facilities and operations and enabling our employees, partners, business associates and customers to go green and adopt eco-friendly practices and be mindful of energy consumption and resource conservation to ensure environmental sustainability."