



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Sagar Sandesh

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Published & Released on Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

**PAGE - 3**

Iran Holds Naval Drills near Strait of Hormuz

**PAGE - 5**

Disinvestment of Shipping Corporation drags on

**PAGE - 8**

44 infra projects under implementation in major ports

**PAGE - 12**

At 2.63 lakh units, Maruti Suzuki records highest.....



2023 Another Year of Achievements! - By FFFAI Chairman, Mr Shankar Shinde



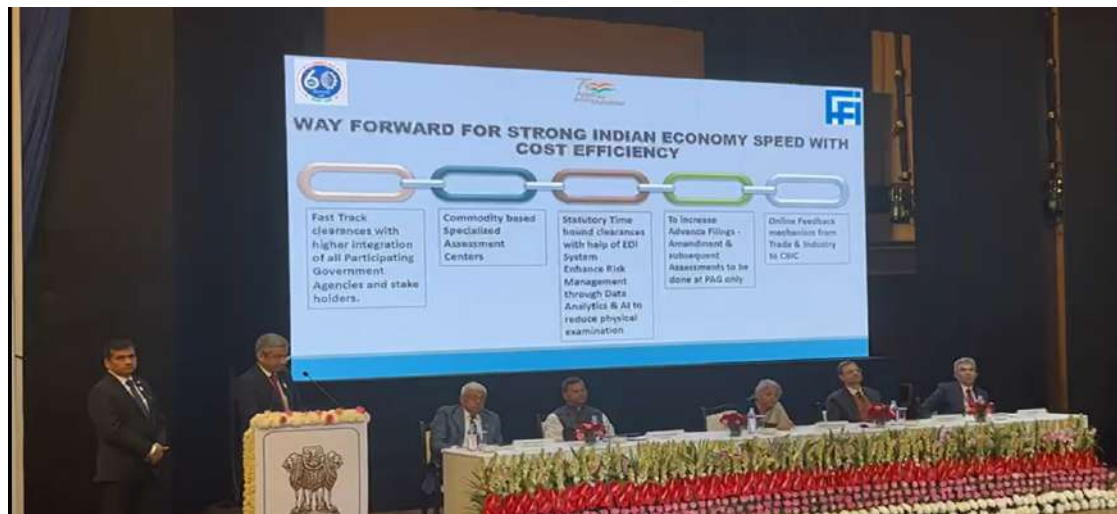
Mr Shankar Shinde-Chairman FFFAI

Take this opportunity to thank all our members and trade fraternity for continued patronage and support to the Federation that has helped all of us to successfully sail through even the challenging years of pandemic and global recession with perseverance and emerge out of it stronger and even more resilient.

While wishing you all a Happy, safe, healthy, and Prosperous 2023! As the new Financial Year 2023-2024 begins with expectations of lot more new opportunities, our Federation is gearing up to be a future-ready organization to serve you better and I am happy to note some cheerful memories and achievements during the year.

It is necessary that FFFAI becomes a stronger organization as the voice of Customs Brokers and Logistics service providers with an increasing number of memberships thereby strengthening the Federation substantially.

Presently our Membership stands at 30



Mr Shankar Shinde Chairman and Mr Dushyant Mulani Chairman Elect-FFFAI on the dais while making the presentation at the celebration of Customs Act-1962 programme in New Delhi

Ordinary Members, with an increase of 104 Associate & Allied Members and registering an increase of over 51% observed during this year.

The increase in membership builds confidence and demonstrates the industry's trust in FFFAI, acknowledging the contribution and being resourceful for our members. We shall always strive to empower our members strengthening them by exploring new opportunities.

We are proud both FFFAI and Customs Act 1962 have completed its glorious 60 years' journey in 2022 facilitating the EXIM trade and the Nation at large. We are happy

we could achieve FFFAI recognition by the Ministry of Finance to give a presentation on its 60 years celebration event in New Delhi in presence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt Nirmal Sitharaman.

Landmark initiatives from Customs in 2022 have been the implementation of the Lifetime validity of CB Licence and the introduction of the Customs Brokers Licensing System (CBLMS).

CBLMS has been one of the important Digital reforms ushered in by CBIC under the leadership of CBIC Chairman Shri Vivek Johri.

Mumbai Customs Zone I Pr. Chief Commissioner Shri P K Agrawal was at the forefront to get this

implemented in Mumbai Custom Zone, which was followed at all Customs locations in the country.

On this occasion I would like to convey sincere gratitude to the Chairman CBIC Shri Vivek Johri; Pr. Chief Commissioner, Mumbai Customs Zone, Shri PK Agrawal, and other CBIC Officials for their path breaking initiatives.

I also thank all FFFAI members across locations who stood to the occasion and facilitated the smooth implementation of CBLMS by working along with the Customs administration in the country.

In 2022 we have observed the government's huge impetus on Logistics infrastructure (both physical

and digital) development. PM Gati Shakti's National Logistics Master Plan, National Logistics Policy, Unified Logistics Interface Platform, initiatives on Multimodal Logistics Parks, ICEGATE updation coupled with expediting other trade facilitation measures in 2022 would surely yield desired results towards achieving \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

As far as the developments in our organization are concerned, we are happy to share the huge success story of the 24th Biennial Convention of FFFAI held in Chennai from August 12 to 14, 2022. With record participants of more than 650 delegates from across India and different parts of the world, the convention was addressed by Minister of Shipping & Waterways, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and State Minister of Shipping and Tourism, Government of India. The convention was full of innovative ideas and interactions.

Turn to page -2 >>

2023 Another Year of Achievements! From Page : 1

We are happy to have a nomination in National Committee on Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Ministry of Commerce & Industry for INSTC project.

To benefit our members, we are pleased to introduce FIATA BL, FIATA eBL, Code of Conduct, Standard Trading Conditions, and No Dues Certificate/ No Objection Certificate.

As regards skill development, there had been good opportunities for signing MoU with Logistics Sector Skill Council, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade/Centre for Trade Facilitation and Logistics, and other CoEs in India and abroad.

We have been able to complete two batches of courses on Diploma and

extended assistance to CoEs. We will continue with our CSR activity in partnership with LSC in generating a talent pool for our industry, along with other activities. We will also be continuing further strengthen our Women and Youth Wings.

It has been a year driving the FFFAI, the time just flew by and I am proud to state that within a year's time there have been a lot of changes noticed especially in the digital sector. With the support of all our Office Bearers, Executive Committee Members, Advisors & other Members we have achieved significant milestones. There is a need to assess the opportunities for our members to take it forward.

Our further initiatives

will also be on cooperating with trade Associations so any future business is undertaken with due diligence.

Apart from regular publications of FFFAI Newsletter and Bulletin, FFFAI has also been active on social media, and our members are requested to follow to make the FFFAI activities visibility for outreach.

We seek each member's participation on this FFFAI platform to serve our fraternity and contribute towards betterment. This is an open platform for interested members to participate, for one to contribute does not require a position. Look forward to your continued support in FFFAI endeavors and wish you all the best for success in future business.

PORT NEWS

JNPA sets a new record in 2022

MUMBAI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority has handled 81.1 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo in Calendar Year 2022 as against 76.1 Million tons in Calendar Year 2021, up 6.55per cent. The total

(JNPA), has appreciated employees and stakeholders for their dedicated hard work that resulted in the stupendous port performance in calendar year 2022. The year 2022 was phenomenal for JNPA as we achieved the milestone of handling the highest ever traffic...



JNPA

traffic of 81.1 Million tons and container traffic of 5,959,112 TEUs are the highest-ever traffic handled in a year since the inception of the port, according to a port release

Mr Sanjay Sethi,
Chairman, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority

The performance of all our terminal operators is noteworthy."

Besides, in 2022, JNPA became India's best-performing port, the first 100per cent landlord Major Port, and was acclaimed with various prestigious awards.



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MARINE NEWS



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

Iran Holds Naval Drills near Strait of Hormuz

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Iran held joint naval, air, and ground exercises in the Gulf on Friday 30 Dec near the strategic Strait of Hormuz waterway, state media reported.

The drills involve submarines and drones "practicing information-gathering operations against attacking forces,

as well as reconnaissance operations," Admiral Habibollah Sayyari told the official IRNA news agency.

The exercises, code named Zolfaghar-1401, were launched overnight Friday in the eastern side of the strait in the Gulf of Oman.

Tehran, which opposes the presence of U.S. and Western navies in the

area, holds annual war games in the Strait of Hormuz, the conduit for some 30% of all crude oil traded by sea.

Sayyari said foreign forces must leave the area "so that regional countries can establish stability and peace in their neighborhood," the English-language state-run Press TV reported.



An Iranian military ship takes part in an annual drill in the coastal area of the Gulf of Oman and near the Strait of Hormuz, Iran, in this picture obtained on December 31, 2022. Iranian Army/WANA (West Asia News Agency)/Handout via REUTERS

River cruise over Ganga and Brahmaputra all set to take off



River cruise

VARANASI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The World's longest river cruise -- 'Ganga Vilas' -- from Varanasi to Dibrugarh via Bangladesh on January 13, covers a journey of 3200 km in 50 days and passing through 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh, the cruise ship will give tourists a chance to visit over 50 architecturally important places, including world heritage sites

Additionally, this cruise will also pass through national parks and sanctuaries, including the Sundarbans Delta and the Kaziranga National Park. To make the experience on

the cruise enjoyable, there will be facilities like music, cultural programs, a gym, a spa, an open-air observation deck, personalised butler service, etc.

According to the official website, the cruise vessel Ganga Vilas -- with a capacity of 80 passengers -- has 18 suites and all other associated facilities. "The cruise will meander across various prominent destinations that lie along Kolkata's River Hooghly to Varanasi's River Ganges,.

According to the timetable released earlier, Ganga Vilas Cruise will start its journey from Varanasi on January 13th

and will reach Patna on the 8th day, passing through Buxar, Ramnagar and Ghazipur. From Patna, the cruise will set sail for Kolkata and will reach the West Bengal capital on the 20th day via Farakka and Murshidabad. The next day, it will set off for Dhaka and enter the Bangladesh border. It will remain in Bangladesh waters for the next 15 days.

Finally, it will come back to India through Guwahati before sailing through Sibsagar and reaching its final destination at Dibrugarh, home town of the Union Shipping minister.



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SHIPPING NEWS

Hapag-Lloyd's Record Handing of "Specials - ODC" Cargo on India Europe Express

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Hapag-Lloyd's Area India Special Cargo team and Chennai Port, by breaking their own previous record for the handing of Specials - ODC Cargo , reached a new milestone .On the vessel M.V. Al Manamah VIA 22433, as part of the India Europe express service, Hapag-Lloyd team successfully and safely handled 87 units, or 164 TEUs, of these 64 units and 127



In handling ODC cargo Hapag-Lloyd reaches a milestone

TEUs were exported. On the same ship, a Break bulk shipment weighing 59 MT was released.

With this and other such movements, Hapag-Lloyd

continues to collaborate with customers to adequately meet their particular cargo requirements for destinations around the world.

MARINE NEWS



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

Navy makes giant strides in 2022

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Navy has made giant strides last year with the induction of several breakthrough measures. The launch of Agnipath scheme, granting women in the Navy and Air Force to take up combat roles are some of the historic moves taken up in a bid to strengthen the Indian military. Similarly, the Indian Navy made significant progress towards the Centre's self-reliance drive and the commissioning of INS Vikrant is one such instance. INS Udaygiri, Dunagiri and Taragiri are

among other indigenously made ships launched in the Navy.

Commissioning of INS Vikrant

The first indigenous aircraft carrier and the largest ship ever made in the maritime history of India, INS Vikrant was commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September, 2022. It is built with state-of-the-art automation features and laden with a large amount of indigenous equipment and machinery. It has the capacity to hold around 1,600 officers and 30 aircrafts. These made-in-India warships have

enhanced the country's maritime capability equipped with advanced weapons and other facilities. All three are the part of Navy's Project 17A drive. INS Udaygiri was named after a mountain range in Andhra Pradesh which was launched in May last year. INS Dunagiri was launched in July into the Hoogly river. The fifth stealth frigate of Indian Navy's Project 17A was launched in Mumbai in September, 2022.

ALH MK III helicopters

Another indigenous addition to Indian Navy, the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III was commissioned in July last year. Designed and built



INS Vikrant

by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the helicopter is deployed to perform MR and SAR operations.

Women Commandos

With equalizing the eligibility criteria, methodology and induction process of women

candidates, Indian Navy has seen increase in the overall number of women. The Indian Navy has also decided to open the doors of its elite special forces to women. This will allow them to serve as commandos for the first time in any of the three services.

China Shipowners' Association Joins the Board of ICS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The China Shipowners' Association has joined the membership and the board of the International Chamber of Shipping, strengthening ICS through the participation of the world's biggest shipowning nation (by dollar value).

"This membership will strengthen our ability to work together, united as an industry, to tackle the most pressing issues facing shipping, such as decarbonisation. It is only



File courtesy China COSCO

through partnership that we will all succeed," said Emanuele Grimaldi, ICS' chairman.

Though Greek owners

hold the most tonnage, Chinese owners control the most capital with \$190 billion worth of assets, according to VesselsValue.

The world's largest shipowner by tonnage is China COSCO, and the world's largest shipbuilder is China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), both belonging to the Chinese state.

"Given the importance of China as a major shipping nation, the membership of CSA confirms the legitimacy of ICS," the chamber said in a statement.

The CSA was founded in 1993, and it represents about 85 percent of Chinese shipowners, according to its most recent figures. In addition to representing

the views of its 200-plus members, the CSA also helps Chinese government agencies to "regulate and maintain fair competition."

"China Shipowners' Association's participation in the ICS will provide Chinese shipowners with a stepping stone," said Zhang Shouguo, Executive Vice-President of China Shipowners' Association.

"It is believed that the participation of the China Shipowners' Association will enrich the ICS platform. We look forward to achieving win-win cooperation and mutual development in the future!"

EXIM NEWS

India's exports to come down in 2023 due to global recession

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Indian economy and exports will be moderately impacted in 2023 by weak global demand and recession in large economies and to improve its current account, the country should aim at reducing energy import bill, economic think tank GTRI said.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that in 2022, India will pay USD 270 billion US dollars in imports of crude oil and coal, which is about 40 per cent of total merchandise import bill.

India must re-energize exploration of local oil fields and enhance production through coal



Global recession to affect India's exports

mines. Any development will cut the energy import bill substantially and improve the current account," it said. There has been no major

discovery of oil or gas during the last ten years.

It also said the US effort to create alternate supply chains excluding China is gradually leading to restructuring of global supply chains and relocation of few large manufacturing firms shows that India is in a good position to benefit from this trend.

India should do so without compromising its strategic autonomy, it said adding that in various free trade agreements (FTAs) under negotiations, India should carefully evaluate the impact of new provisions on domestic policies. Developed countries including the US and the EU use such provisions in creating non-tariff barriers against exports from partner countries.



Disinvestment of Shipping Corporation drags on

MUMBAI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has granted permission to a plan to split the core and non-core assets of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), a move that will pave the way for the government to divest its 63 percent stake in the company according to media reports.

The privatization of the company is on hold for the past three years even as the EXIM industry has pleaded for a National shipping line to protect the



The privatization of the company is on hold for the past three years

interest of the trade amidst more than 40 objections stiff hike in international were filed by vendors freight rates. and stakeholders ahead

The demerger move of its privatization. In its had hit a fresh hurdle after submission to the corporate

ministry earlier, the Shipping Corporation of India Officers Association (SCIOA) and the Shipping Corporation of India Staff Union (SCISU) had sought to protect the interests of employees post privatization.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs had called for a final meeting on demerger on December, 29.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs directed SCI during a final hearing to file its response on how it proposes to address the concerns. But this direction has thrown the state-run

company into a tizzy as to who would sign the affidavit.

The problem arose due to the fact that the delegation of powers in state-run firms such as SCI does not mention instances such as filing of affidavits and the officer signing it. Hence, the company's board or its chairperson will have to authorize an officer to file the affidavit under his signature.

The Mumbai-headquartered SCI is a government corporation under the ownership of the Ministry of Shipping. SCI is tasked to operate and manage vessels servicing

Container Lines Serving Indian Trades Continue to Face Steep Freight Rate Declines

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Container carriers serving Indian trades continue to face steep freight rate declines amid a weakening demand outlook that industry observers believe will only worsen in the days ahead, according to a new market analysis by Container News.

On the westbound India-Europe trade, average contract rates from West India [Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT)/Nhava Sheva or Mundra Port] to Felixstowe/London Gateway (UK) or Rotterdam (the Netherlands) crashed to US\$1,300 per 20-foot container and US\$1,600/40-foot container at the end of last month, from US\$2,300



Amid the market challenges, carriers have begun to rework their vessel deployment strategies to stay profitable

and US\$2,500, respectively, in November.

For West India-Genoa (the West Mediterranean) cargo, average rates stood at US\$1,500/20-foot box and US\$1,600/40-foot box, compared with the November levels of US\$2,200/20-foot box and US\$2,500/40-foot box.

December eastbound cargo (imports into India) prices for these port pairings, however, saw no noticeable changes month-on-month, with continuing to hover at US\$1,400/TEU and US\$1,500/FEU for bookings from Felixstowe/Rotterdam and at US\$1,150/TEU and US\$1,400/FEU to

West India (Nhava Sheva/Mundra).

Average short-term contract prices offered by major carriers for Indian cargo moving to the US East Coast (New York) also saw steep declines from the November levels – down to US\$3,700 per 20-foot box, versus US\$4,700, and US\$5,000 per 40-foot box, from US\$6,300, and at US\$2,100/20-foot container, from US\$3,600, and US\$3,000/40-foot box, down from US\$4,800, for shipments to the US West Coast (Los Angeles).

For the West India-US Gulf Coast trade, rates on average fell to US\$3,900 per 20-foot container and US\$5,200 per 40-foot container, compared with

US\$4,750 and US\$6,850, respectively, during November.

On the return direction, average contract rates saw no changes from the levels maintained by major operators in November, with the exception of USEC-West India bookings

Amid the market challenges, carriers have begun to rework their vessel deployment strategies to stay profitable.

According to Bharat Thanvi, co-founder of Mumbai-based digital forwarder Freightwalla, major trades out of India witnessed a 45% rate slide from August through October 2022.

miscellaneous processed items reported 28.29 per

cent growth, as per a report.

EXIM NEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

India's exports of major agriculture and processed products, promoted by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), have jumped by 15.68 per cent to a value of \$17.43 billion during

Agri products exports up in April-Nov.

April-November of the current fiscal from \$15.07 billion a year ago.

Exceeding the target, APEDA products registered a record \$24.76 billion in exports in FY22, yet the target for the current fiscal has been set at \$23.56 billion.

As per provisional data, processed fruits and vegetables recorded 32.60 per cent growth in April-November 2022, while fresh fruits registered four per cent growth against the corresponding period of the previous year. Also, processed food products like cereals and



Agri products



A sailing ship is no democracy; you don't caucus a crew as to where you'll go anymore than you inquire when they'd like to shorten sail. - Sterling Hayden



The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) has announced the addition of Jubail Commercial Port to the India to East Med shipping service by MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company).

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

With the arrival of container vessel

MSC ELLEN, the Saudi ports sector is set to welcome yet another trade link from leading shipping

MAWANI: New Shipping Service to Connect Jubail Commercial Port to Mundra & Hazira

lines who are increasingly choosing the Kingdom as a vital port of call given its strategic location at the crossroads of three major continents besides being home to world class logistics infrastructure.

The new service will connect the Kingdom to Turkey, the Indian Subcontinent, Africa, and the Middle East via weekly sailings to the ports of Khalifa, Jebel Ali, Hamad, Karachi, Mundra,

Hazira, Alexandria, Tekirdag, Aliaga, Mersin, and King Abdullah on board five vessels that have an average carrying capacity of 8,000 TEUs.

The latest route will play a pivotal role in positioning Jubail Commercial Port as a competitive hub and uncover a host of value-added opportunities for importers, exporters, and shipping lines in line with the objectives of the National Transport and

Logistics Strategy (NTLS). Modernly equipped to handle vessels of all shapes and sizes, Jubail Commercial Port provides a cost-effective and efficient gateway for local industries to export their products to global markets and import their raw materials.

It also serves as a key driver of Saudi foreign trade besides bolstering economic growth in the Eastern Region.

First LNG Cargo Arrives in Germany as U.S. Tops LNG Exporter List

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The first tanker carrying LNG from the United States arrived in Wilhelmshaven on January 3 being hailed as Germany's next step in greater energy security.

The shipment comes as the United States emerged as one of the world's largest exporters of LNG and just months after the German federal government launched its efforts to develop LNG import terminals using chartered FSRU vessels. The arrival of the first

shipment however is being met by environmental protestors.

The Maria Energy, a 93,300 dwt gas carrier owned by Tsakos Energy Navigation, docked with the H?egh Esperanza, the first of five FSRUs chartered by the German government which arrived in Wilhelmshaven in mid-December.

The gas carrier was completing a trip that began at the U.S. terminal in Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana, loading approximately 170,000 cbm of LNG and departing on December 19.



Maria Energy arriving from the U.S. with the first import LNG cargo for Germany (Uniper)

Venture Global supplied the LNG to the terminal which is being operated by Uniper.

According to the

companies, this shipment will provide enough gas to fuel 50,000 German homes for up to one year.

The German government launched its

efforts to establish the LNG import terminals shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine completing the first agreements in May 2022.

In addition to the FSRU in Wilhelmshaven a second government-chartered vessel is preparing to begin operations in Brunsbützel near Hamburg as well as the privately-funded terminal at Lubmin which is currently also testing its operations.

The three remaining FSRUs chartered by the German government, are due to be in service for 2023-2024 and will be located at Stade, Lubmin, and a second one in Wilhelmshaven.

LOGISTIC NEWS

Air Cargo at Chennai Airport Held up Due To Withdrawal of Permission to Ground Handling Agent

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Over 100 tonnes of export cargo could not be airlifted at the Chennai airport as the Bureau of Civil Aviation and Security withdrew permission

for AI Airport Services Ltd. (AIASL) to accept palletised air cargo, said industry sources.

The AIASL (formerly known as Air India Air Transport Services Limited) and the Airports Authority of India Cargo Logistics

and Allied Services Ltd. (AAICLAS) are the two authorised ground handling agents at the Chennai air cargo complex to handle export cargo. Nearly 30 per cent of the cargo is handled by Air India, and the rest, 70 per cent by AAI.



No prior intimation was given to the trade, the association said.

Air cargo agents ground handling agent are facing a stoppage of moving their export freight on airlines whose

AIASL, said J Krishnan, Turn to Page - 09 ▶▶

CONTAINER TERMINAL NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminal to Start Operations from 6 February

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The facility, jointly managed by J M Baxi Ports & Logistics and CMA Terminals, will take over the terminal previously run by State-owned Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority; it will start accepting export boxes from 6 February.

Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminal Pvt Ltd, an equal joint venture between J M Baxi Ports & Logistics Ltd and CMA Terminals Holding, will start operations from 10 February at the container terminal it acquired from the State-owned Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) last year.

Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminal said it will begin accepting export containers from 6 February, the terminal said in a notice to trade.

CMA Terminals Holding is a unit of CMA CGM S A, the world's third largest container shipping firm.

Aniruddha Lele, currently with CMA CGM India Pvt Ltd, has been named the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminal. Anil Narayanan, who was the Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Visakha Container Terminal Pvt Ltd, the facility run by J M Baxi Ports & Logistics at



Nhava Sheva free port terminal to start accepting export boxes from Feb

Visakhapatnam Port, has been named the COO of the terminal.

The J M Baxi Ports & Logistics- CMA Terminals Holding consortium won the bid on a global tender by placing the highest

royalty price bid of Rs4,520 per twenty-foot equivalent (TEU) for the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT).

The deal involves upgrading and mechanising the terminal with a quay length of 680 metres to improve utilization, crane, and berth productivity to raise the capacity to 1.8 million TEUs from 1.5 million TEUs, with an investment of Rs 872.16 crores.

Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminal will be revamping the existing container terminal previously run by the port authority in two phases and is expected to be fully completed by the

fourth quarter of 2024, it said in the trade notice.

Initially, the Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminal will be operating one berth of 340 metres with 5 quay cranes for handling container ships and will be subsequently further strengthened.

The terminal will be equipped with the latest technology and equipment offering high productivity and facilitate faster turn-around of ships, it added.

The Nhava Sheva Free Port Terminal will be the only facility out of the five operating at Jawaharlal Nehru Port – India's biggest State-run container gateway – to get the freedom to fix market determined rates.

EXIM NEWS

Govt would address Leather Industry concern on import duty

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU



Indian leather industry

The Government would address the concerns of the leather industry about the need to moderate import duties on certain types of leather and assured them that the issue will be taken up for consideration presumably in the current union budget, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told the captains of the industry

He was addressing the gathering at the Council for Leather Exports National Export Excellence Award function in New Delhi on January third.

The Industry stakeholders should avail of the MOOWR scheme introduced by Department of Revenue, wherein no duty is to be paid on goods

which are being imported for the purpose for exports. This will certainly help make business more competitive.

Indian Leather Industry has huge untapped potential. While the Quality of Products manufactured is good, more focus is required on packaging and branding to get better value for the product. Indian Mission across the world can help in providing support in terms of outreach and can help connect them with international companies engaged in branding business.

Minister is trying to enter into more Free Trade Agreements with other developed nations of the world. He urged the Leather and footwear industry to aim for significant increase over the next 25 years and draw up a plan to achieve those goals. They should look up at expanding horizons- explore new territories, manufacturing new products in india for import substitution.

India has the potential to become a world leader in Footwear and leather sector with the

efforts of both government and industry.

He asked the industry to look at innovation and sustainability

in their products. He also called for new collaborations with international companies to bring high quality products into India.

Sagar Sandesh

Weekly Thrice E-Paper

is bringing out a colourful

74th Republic Day

SPECIAL EDITION

on the occasion of
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PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

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

44 infra projects under implementation in major ports

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Ministry of Ports, has a pipeline of 44 projects for total investment of Rs 22,900 crore till 2024-25, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said in an interview to a news agency.

The government is working on the guidelines for dealing with stressed public-private partnership (PPP) projects at major ports and has also come up with policies to support the shipbuilding industry in India, Sonowal said.

"The Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways is working on two fronts to encourage private sector participation... On the project front the ministry



JNPA major port

has a pipeline of 44 projects for a total investment of Rs 22,900 crore till 2024-25,". On the policy front, the ministry is working on the Guidelines for dealing with stressed PPP projects at major ports, Sonowal said.

Under the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP), the Ministry

has accorded approval to 22 projects worth Rs 12,222 crore. Out of the 22 projects, seven projects worth Rs 5,278 crore have already been awarded on PPP mode, rest projects are in various stages of bidding, he said.

The industry sources said majority of the Port infra

projects are implemented in the west coast particularly in Gujarat and Northern Maharashtra. On inland transport the concentration is mostly on development in Ganges and Brahmaputra and development of other river basins are mostly on record. **The Ministry has not addressed the chronic problem of under utilization of container handling capacity of some of the major ports in the east coast.** These ports need drastic improvement in port infrastructure and vibrant rail connectivity to expand their skewed hinterland the source said.

The ministry is also working on the Captive Policy and Migration Policy (to new MCA and Tariff regime) to improve the ease of doing business and provide a conducive

environment for private sector investments in the port sector.

Sonowal said under the Gati Shakti National Master Plan, MoPSW has identified 101 projects worth Rs 56,831 crore for implementation by 2024. "Out of these, 13 projects worth Rs 4,423 crore have been completed," he said, adding that 9 projects worth Rs 716 crore are expected to be completed by March 2023.

The Ports, Shipping and Waterways ministry has identified 9 High Impact Projects (HIP) and these have been uploaded in the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal and are being monitored at the Cabinet Secretariat level. Three HIP projects are already completed, he added.

SHIPPING NEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

According to Freightos, logistics costs have played an important role in spiking inflation and they may play an equally important role in its easing as rates fall and operations normalise.

Transpacific ocean rates to the West Coast have stabilised at 2019 levels for about a month now, and prices to the East Coast are just 12% higher than in December 2019 as demand and congestion ease.

Additionally, Asia – Europe rates have fallen 50% in the last six weeks, but remain 30% higher than in 2019 as blanked sailings increase, and congestion and some recent labor

Transpacific Ocean Rates Return to 2019 Levels



Transpacific ocean rates to the West Coast have stabilised at 2019 levels

disruptions may be slowing operations.

Carriers are expected to blank about half of all scheduled ex-Asia sailings for the months after the Lunar New Year, while some Asian manufacturers will take the unusual step of shutting down for the holiday as early as the second week of January

in another indication of sagging demand.

Freightos reported that Asia-US West Coast prices dipped 3% to US\$1,377/FEU. This rate is 91% lower than the same time last year. Asia-US East Coast prices also fell 10% to US\$2,924/FEU, and are 82% lower than rates for this week last year, while Asia-North

Europe prices increased 11% to US\$2,405/FEU, and are 83% lower than rates for this week last year.

Judah Levine, head of research, noted that slowing volumes have led Asia – US West Coast rates to stabilise at 2019 levels for about a month now. Prices to the East Coast have continued to fall on easing demand and congestion – 10% since last week – and though the rate of the decline has slowed in December, the current price is just 12% above 2019 levels.

Moreover, Asia – North Europe rates have fallen 50% since mid-November. However, blank sailings, some persisting congestion and renewed labor disruptions in some ports may be combined

to keep prices 30% higher than in December 2019.

Transatlantic prices of more than US\$5,600/FEU remain almost three times higher than in 2019, despite the fact that they have declined 30% from their May-to-September US\$8,000/FEU peak as carriers add capacity to this still-lucrative lane and congestion eases.

Another sign of sagging demand, according to Levine, is the unusual move among some Asian manufacturers to close for the holiday as early as the second week of January.

Easing covid restrictions in China is also contributing to more workers out sick, while other protocols will reduce barge and trucking capacity earlier in the month too, which may also be driving the earlier start to the holiday, according to Freightos analysis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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

Indian Railways' Longest Electrified Tunnel Proves to Be a Game Changer in Freight Transportation

Indian Railways' longest electrified tunnel has proven to be a major game changer in the country's freight transportation.



Canadian Freight Forwarder FFAF Cargo Launches India Subsidiary

FFAF Logistics India and has appointed KarthiBaskar as its managing director & CEO. "Effectively launched in October 2022, FFAF Logistics India



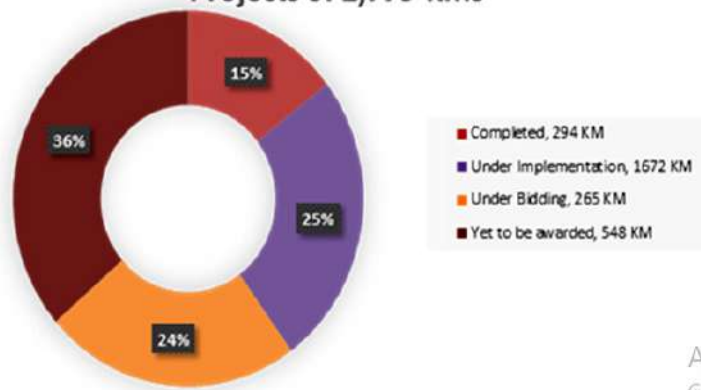
Status of Port connectivity projects

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Eight Port connectivity projects to a length of 294 kilometers have been completed by the National Highways authority. 14 connectivity projects of length 1645 kilometers are under implementation while 13 projects of 363 kilometers length are under bidding according to transport ministry document released on January fourth.

20 projects of length 476 km are yet to be awarded.

Port connectivity and Associated Hinterland
Projects of 2,779 Kms



Post completion of these projects, 45 Maritime Lane+ connectivity. 55 port connectivity and associated hinterland projects with National Highway or 4 a total length of 2,779 km

have already been initiated by the Ministry and its implementing agencies.

The program has been envisioned to connect all major ports, non-major ports as well as inland waterway terminals in the country to create an integrated network to support efficient and unhindered freight movement. As many as 52 critical infrastructure gap projects identified by Ministry of Ports and Shipping for connecting Maritime ports and Inland Waterway Terminals to be taken up under Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

For improving first and

last mile connectivity to all Major and Non-major ports of the country specifically the operational/ under implementation ports, the Union road transport ministry is working to enhance the ports logistics eco-system by connecting Major & Minor Ports with National Highways.

India has a total of 226 ports which comprise 12 Major ports.

At present, there are 87 operational or under implementation ports which are being considered for assessment in terms of connectivity or capacity augmentation.

LOGISTIC NEWS

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a 350 million US dollars loan to build new lines and improve the connectivity of the Metro rail system in Chennai with the city's existing public transport system.

The tranche 1 loan is

Asian Development Bank funds 2nd phase of Chennai Metro

part of the 780 million US dollars Multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the project approved by ADB late last year to develop three new metro lines in Chennai, the second phase of the project currently under implementation.

The investment project supports the development of three new metro lines—3, 4, and 5. For Line 3, the project will construct 10.1 kilometers (km) of the elevated section between Sholinganallur to State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu-2, including 9 metro stations and system components.

For line 4, the project will help construct 10 km of the underground section between Lighthouse and Meenakshi College, Kodambakkam including 9 stations. For Line 5 it will finance 31 km of system components, such as electrical, mechanical, power, and telecommunication infrastructure, between Chennai Mofussal Bus Terminus to Okkiyam Thoraipakkam. The stations will incorporate disaster- and climate-resilient features and will be responsive to the needs of the elderly, women, children, differently abled, and transgender people.

Multimodal interchanges and facilities will be established along metro rail corridors to improve commuters' experience such as drop-off and pick-up areas, sheltered waiting areas, bicycle facilities, and passenger information. An additional 1 million US dollars ADB technical assistance (TA) grant will help the Chennai Metro Rail Limited with the planning and management of the metro system's multimodal integration.

After signing the loan agreement Mr. Mishra stated that the project will help expand connectivity of Chennai's Central areas

to major destinations in South and West of the city and integrate the metro system with existing bus and feeder services to benefit thousands of daily commuters

The signatories to the tranche 1 loan for the Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project were Raja Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance who signed for the Government of India, and Mr Nilaya Mitash, Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission, who signed for ADB.

Natesa Iyer Logistics LLP, an air cargo agent Chennai is already fighting a losing battle for market share of passengers and cargo with Bengaluru, and this adds to the negative image, he added.

Clients utilising the services of Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, and Air India are stuck with no option to move their cargo.

Air Cargo at Chennai Airport Held up..... From Page 6

Perishable cargo exports to Southeast Asia are badly affected, he said. Turkish Airlines, Thai Airlines, and Saudi Arabian Airlines are customers of Air India, he added.

A cargo agent said that only inspections were carried out and a report was being generated.

The issue is expected to be resolved by tonight 4 Jan or tomorrow at the latest. But big airlines not carrying cargo for almost four days at a major airport is a serious lapse in management.

It is learnt that the Air Cargo Agents Association of India has taken up the

issue with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to intervene in the matter and sort out the problem.

The sudden closure of their cargo (AIASL) terminal has come as a big setback to all the users of their cargo terminal. There is a possibility that buyers abroad could

cancel orders from Indian exporters. No prior intimation was given to the trade, the association said

The aircraft space on aircraft is also going empty, causing a loss to the airlines, which they are likely to recover on their subsequent flights or by airlines of AAICLAS terminal by increasing the air freight rates drastically, the association said.

IMO NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

EEXI and CII - ship carbon intensity and rating system

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI entered into force on 1 November 2022. Developed under the framework of the Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships agreed in 2018, these technical and operational amendments require ships to improve their energy efficiency in the short term and thereby reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

From 1 January 2023 it will be mandatory for all ships to calculate their attained Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI)



Frequently asked questions on the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) and the annual operational carbon intensity indicator (CII) and CII rating.

to measure their energy efficiency and to initiate the collection of data for the reporting of their annual operational carbon intensity indicator (CII) and CII rating.

What are the new mandatory measures?

As a stimulus to reduce carbon intensity of all ships by 40% by 2030 compared to 2008 baseline, ships will be required to calculate two ratings: their attained Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI) to determine their energy efficiency, and their

annual operational Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) and associated CII rating. Carbon intensity links the GHG emissions to the amount of cargo carried over distance travelled.

When do the measures come into force?

The amendments to MARPOL Annex VI are in force from 1 November 2022. The requirements for EEXI and CII certification come into effect on 1 January 2023. This means that the first annual reporting will be completed in 2023, with initial ratings given in 2024.

The measures are part of IMO's commitment under its 2018 Initial Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships to reduce carbon intensity from all ships by 40% by 2030 compared to 2008.

What is an Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI)?

A ship's attained EEXI indicates its energy efficiency compared to a baseline. Ships attained EEXI will then be compared to a required Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index based on an applicable reduction factor expressed as a percentage relative to the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) baseline. It must be calculated for ships of 400 gt and above, in accordance with the different values set for ship types and size categories. The calculated attained EEXI value for each individual ship must be below the required EEXI, to ensure the ship meets a minimum energy efficiency standard.

(To be continued)

SEAFARER NEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The office of NRI Affairs has finally credited the pension of retired seafarers and widows along with the arrears, but the beleaguered seafarers have a simple question – when will the promised permanent pension scheme for the seafarers finally see the light of day?

While the seafarers are now expected to get their monthly pension for the next four months with the government extending the scheme by six months from November last, questions are being raised in seafarer circles about when the government will finally launch the permanent scheme.

The Goan understands that the office of NRI is

Seafarers receive pension, but ask when will permanent scheme finally see light of day?



Retired seafarers hit streets for pension, their future livelihood

in the process of giving touches to the permanent schemes, but it isn't clear when the scheme will be made permanent.

For, the Home Minister is believed to have called for a meeting between the Goa Chief Secretary

and the Director General of Shipping to find out and ascertain whether the deductions of the seafarers are being utilised for the betterment of the seafaring community, including social welfare benefits such as the pension.

Questions, however,

are being raised in many quarters about whether the government is trying to link the deductions made of seafarers by the shipping companies to the government's pension scheme. "There is no clarity why the government has called for a meeting between the Goa Chief Secretary and the Director General of Shipping. We only hope the government is not trying to link the seafarers' deduction to the pension scheme," remarked a seafarer.

Sources informed that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recently had an interaction with the officials of the office of NRI Affairs and the Home department

and is believed to have given his nod to work out a permanent pension scheme for the seafarers.

The pension scheme for seafarers was first unveiled by former Chief Minister late Manohar Parrikar after his return to power in the 2012 polls.

The scheme, however, came to an abrupt end in October 2019, leaving the pension beneficiaries in the lurch.

In June 2021, the Pramod Sawant government revived the scheme, but only for six months, before extending the same by a year, which expired in November 2022. Given that the government is yet to fulfil its promise to work out a permanent scheme for the seafarers, the temporary scheme has got another six-month extension in December.



The new airport at Nepal could turn into Hambantota

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The green field airport that has come up at Pokhara near East Uttar Pradesh border with Chinese assistance adds to the worry list of India since it apprehends a repeat of Hambantota port in Sri Lanka in case Kathmandu fails to repay the loan to Beijing for the construction of the airport

The airport was inaugurated by Nepal's Prime Minister Prachanda, on the New Year day.

It was constructed with a 215.96 million US dollars soft loan from China's ExIm Bank. India's biggest



Pokhara international airport

worry is whether Nepal would be able to pay back China because if not, a repeat of the Hambantota Port disaster is possible.

The Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka was built with financial support from China. In 2018, after failing to repay the loan, Sri Lanka

was forced to lease out nearly 70 percent control of the port to Chinese companies. Chinese vessels, including warships and submarines of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), berth at Hambantota regularly, ostensibly to refuel or pick up supplies. What bothers India is that the port is uncomfortably close to the country's coast.

Pokhara is also very close to India, particularly cities in Uttar Pradesh like Gorakhpur and Lucknow. It is also not all that far from the strategic Siliguri corridor. What if Nepal fails to repay the loan and is forced to lease out the

airport to the Chinese?

What if the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) then starts using the airport as a support base, just as the PLAN has done in Hambantota? We are monitoring the situation. China has said that the airport will promote tourism from there to Nepal. However, the airport can't be sustained with that traffic. Questions have already started being raised in Nepal," a source in the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"Countries like Nepal are going through an economic crisis. How can they even think of paying back China? **Locals in Pokhara, whose lands were acquired, believe that the international airport there will result in economic growth.**

Status of multi modal logistics parks

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU



Multimodal logistics park

MMLP in Jogigopha (Assam) is in an advanced stage. The estimated cost of the first phase of the project is 793.97 crore. This MMLP will serve as the distribution centre for all North-Eastern states and facilitate cross-border trade with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari and Union Minister for Ports Sarbananda Sonowal, signed an MoU between National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and JNPT for the development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Jalna in Maharashtra

A network of 35 Multimodal Logistics Parks is planned to be developed as part of Bharatmala Pariyojana, with a total investment of about Rs 46,000 crore, which once operational, shall be able to handle around 700 million metric tons of cargo.

These Multi-Modal Logistics Parks shall serve as regional cargo aggregation and distribution hubs for various industrial and agricultural nodes, consumer hubs and EXIM gateways such as seaports with multi-modal connectivity. In certain cases, the MMLPs are also being developed in tandem with the Inland Waterway Terminals under the Sagar Mala Pariyojana to further reduce the cost of inland cargo movement at a much larger scale as compared to conventional road-based movement.

The Mumbai based Reliance Industries has bagged the contract for putting up the first Multi Modal Logistics park at Mappedu near the largest automobile cluster in the country Sriperumpudur near Chennai.

The estimated project cost of the project is Rs 1424 crore. This is the first Multi Modal Logistics Park project which has been awarded under Public Private Partnership Mode. Chennai Port is among the co-sponsors of the project according to a transport ministry document released on January 4th

Bids for MMLP Bengaluru, MMLP Nagpur and MMLP Indore are in process. Work on Pre-feasibility study for remaining locations is in progress according to a Transport Ministry document released on January 4th. Multi Modal Logistics Parks at 15 prioritized locations will be developed with a total investment of about Rs 22,000 Crore.

Out of 15, development of

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



Govt extends ban on import of Palm oil through Cochin port

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Director-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has extended the ban on palm oil imports through Kerala ports until further orders. It has also extended import duty waiver on refined palm oil and palmolein oil.

Both the duty waiver and the ban on imports at Kerala ports were to end on December 31.

The Government banned the import of palm group of oils through Kerala ports in 2007 to protect coconut growers.

The extension of the ban on palm oil imports reportedly comes on the Coconut Development Board's request and various farmer organisations, fearing increased arrivals, especially when Indonesia lifted restrictions on palm oil imports. This may further depress coconut



Palm oil

oil prices in the domestic market now ruling at Rs 139 per kilo

Official sources said the Kerala's annual edible

coconut oil consumption is around 3 lakh tons in the last few years. However, consumption is almost stagnant even at low prices against the production of 5.56 lakh tons in 2021-22. The Board has occasionally taken up marketing campaigns to increase consumption, citing its health benefits. However, industry sources pointed out that, of late, there was no generic promotion from the Board.

Cochin Port Users Forum had urged the DGFT to lift the palm oil import restrictions to shore up the port's revenue. They pointed out that the government implemented the ban to curb the sliding of coconut oil prices with no desired results. However, industry sources noted that there is no point in continuing with the ban through Kerala ports, as imported palm oil is still flowing freely to the state by road after unloading it at Tuticorin and New Mangalore ports.

Domestic coal production goes up

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

India's coal production increased by 16 per cent to 607.97 million tons in the April-December of the ongoing fiscal. India's coal output was at 522.34 million tons in the year-ago period.

India's coal production increased impressively by 16.39 per cent to 607.97 MT during Apr-Dec'22 as compared to 522.34 MT produced during the same period of FY 22," the Ministry of Coal said in a

statement. State-run Coal India Ltd (CIL) reported coal production of 479.05 MT up to December of FY 23 as compared to 413.63 MT during the same period of FY 22, representing an increase of 15.82 per cent.

To augment coal production capacity, the government has put 141 new coal blocks for commercial mines auction and has been engaging regularly with various coal companies in the country and monitoring their production, the coal



Coal production

ministry said in a statement. The all-round efforts made to enhance the domestic coal output and dispatch have shown extremely good results.

India is the world's third largest energy consuming nation and the demand for electricity grows by about 4.7 per cent annually. There has

been a rise in production of coal by captive and other companies by 31.38 per cent to 81.70 million tons during April-December period as compared to 62.19 million tons production during corresponding period of previous financial year.

The coal ministry is taking steps to increase rail connectivity infrastructure for all major mines under PM Gati Shakti for faster transportation. Consequently, the total coal despatch has been at 637.51 million tonnes during April-December period, registering a growth of 7.28 per cent.

At 2.63 lakh units, Maruti Suzuki records highest-ever exports in 2022

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) said its exports grew 28 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to 2,63,068 units in 2022, its highest ever overseas shipments.

The company exports 16 models. In 2022, the highest exported models were Dzire, Swift, S-Presso, Baleno and Brezza. Maruti Suzuki vehicles were popular among customers in Africa, West Asia, Latin America, ASEAN and neighbouring regions, the company said.

MSIL also exports



The previous record was in 2021, when the company dispatched 2,05,450 vehicles overseas | Photo Credit: Ravi Choudhary

Suzuki's Jimny SUV, which it started manufacturing in India and exporting from January 2021. According to sources, the company has exported 29,316 units of

Jimny cumulatively since then. "In 2021-22, 18,486 units were exported and in 2022-23 (till December), 9,195 units were exported," the sources have said.

MSIL, which started exports in 1986-87 with the first consignment to Hungary, today exports to around 100 countries.

"Crossing the two-lakh milestone in exports for the second consecutive year signifies the trust, quality, reliability, performance, and affordability of our products. This achievement further aligns with our strong commitment to the government's 'Make in India' initiative to manufacture products to delight global customers," Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, MSIL, said.

Interestingly, in 2022, the company exported more than double the volume it exported in pre-Covid year (2019). In 2019, MSIL exported 1,07,190 units, but in 2020 its exports had declined to 85,208 units due to the pandemic and supply chain constraints. MSIL's exports in 2018 were at 1,13,824 units.

"We are thankful for the support from our parent company Suzuki Motor Corporation to enable us to leverage a wider distribution network across the globe. Further, adding more models to our portfolio helped sustain excitement in the export markets," Takeuchi added.