



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

# Sagor Sandesh

Maritime Tabloid English Weekly Thrice E - Paper

In association with R L Institute of Nautical Sciences, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. | RNI No. TNENG/2012/41759 | Friday, January 13, 2023 | Voyage 11 Wave 144

Published &amp; Released on Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

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**The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) demands Provident Fund, Gratuity, and Pension for all ranks of our seafarers working on Indian and foreign flagships of all types accepted by the Board of Trustees of Seamen's Provident Fund.**

NUSI has been demanding the benefit of a Provident Fund, Gratuity, and Pension for all ranks of our seafarers serving on Indian and foreign flagships of all types. NUSI want all

## NUSI Demand on Social Security's Benefits for Seafarers receives nod from Board of Trustees - Milind Kandalgaonkar, General Secretary -cum- Treasurer



ranks of our seafarers to have these social securities after they leave sea service.

NUSI demand was accepted in principle by the Board of Trustees of Seamen's Provident Fund

on 11th January 2021. Since then, the legal formalities by the Government of India was in process. "We are pleased to inform you that on 6th January 2023, the final draft was approved in

the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Seamen's Provident Fund, and the same was sent to the Government of India for final approval. **NUSI will still continue to give its strong views on the final draft also till the very end to ensure existing benefits are retained and improved upwards when the final scheme of PF, Gratuity, and Pension is implemented**."

"Bro. S. Kalaikovan, NUSI Assistant Secretary represented the seafarers in this important meeting. We thank particularly the proactive role of Shri Amitabh Kumar,

our Director General of Shipping, and other Trustees of the Seamen's Provident Fund in agreeing to the long pending demand of NUSI".

"All ranks of seafarers and their families are very happy and proud that the efforts of NUSI of so many years have been finally accepted and the NUSI demand of Provident Fund, Gratuity, and Pension for all ranks of our seafarers serving on Indian and foreign flagships of all types will be fulfilled very soon" announced by Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar, General Secretary -cum- Treasurer NUSI.

## Maritime Indoor Sports League on 11th February in Mumbai- By Offing Group

**The Maritime Indoor Sports League (MISL) – The Largest Corporate Maritime Indoor Sports League for ALL Stakeholders of the Maritime Industry - is back for its 4th Edition!**

The event is being hosted at **The Renaissance Federation Club in Andheri West, Mumbai** on the **11th of February**.

The day-long event

will entail fun, frolic, and **8 Indoor Sports for the participating companies** to battle it out in **Table Tennis; Swimming; Chess; Sketching; Indoor Rowing; Carrom; Darts, and Personality Contest.**

**The company that wins the highest number of points in the Medals Tally will take home the MISL 2023 SHIELD!**

The Maritime Indoor Sports League has been conceptualized with 2 concepts in mind :

All stakeholders of the Maritime Business are connected to each other. Although we do business in the same sector, seldom do we get an opportunity to meet 'All' stakeholders at one platform – specially one which involves the human element of rejoicing

life and living it to the fullest.

MISL is that platform!

Further, we have sportsmen of various calibers within our teams. Let's bring them together!

The organisers of MISL look forward to a participation of over 300 participants at the event

from various companies in the Maritime Sector and a joyful positive spirit for the competition!

MISL 2K23 – An event by Offing Group Pvt.Ltd- Led by Capt. Purnendu Shorey And Capt. Anupam Raizada. For more information, visit [www.misl.in](http://www.misl.in)

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4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

DATE - 11TH FEBRUARY 2023



**MARITIME INDOOR SPORTS LEAGUE**

LOCATION - Renaissance Federation Club, Andheri West, Mumbai

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PORT NEWS

Arrival of M.V. LE Champlain Cruise ship at Chennai Port

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

M.V. LE Champlain, is the first cruise ship – French Flag to call Chennai Port on 10.01.2023 after pandemic with 118 crews and 108 Passengers from Trincomalee, Sri Lanka and set to sail to Trincomalee, Sri Lanka on 11.01.2023.

The Tour Operators informed that the passengers have plans to visit St. Fort George Museum, Santhome Cathedral, Kapaleeswarar temple and Dakshin Chitra.

Shri.SUNILPALIWAL,

I.A.S, Chairperson, Chennai Port Authority emphasized the historical importance of Chennai Port and the role played to promote International Cruise Tourism in India.

He specified the various facilitating measures under taken by the Central, State Government, Vessel Agent M/s. GAC Shipping (India) Private Limited and other agencies. He hoped that with the modernized Cruise Terminal the Port may attract more such Cruise vessels in post pandemic time.



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# EXIM TREND

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

## US India business council hosts commerce minister

NEW YORK  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), part of the U.S. Chamber Commerce, and Nasdaq co-hosted the Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, for an exclusive roundtable with USIBC members at the Nasdaq Market Site in New York City on January 10th.

**Key topics of discussion** included expectations from the upcoming TPF, ways to further strengthen India's intellectual property regime, and India's progress on improving the ease of doing business. USIBC members highlighted India's flagship National Logistics Policy as a "game changer," and as a major step to lowering the costs of doing business in the Indian



market and unlocking India's potential as a global manufacturing and export hub. Notably, several USIBC members signaled major new investments into India and plans to expand their manufacturing presence in the country.

**In November, U.S. Treasury Secretary Yellen visited India to discuss the administration's "friend-shoring" agenda with the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman,** USIBC supported Secretary Yellen's visit and members of the Council have sought ways to align their new investment plans with the

initiative as they diversify their supply chains and exposures to foreign markets.

"India and U.S. relations have been at an all-time high.," said Minister Piyush Goyal. The Minister added that "There are limitless opportunities all across: from semiconductors to infrastructure to healthcare to manufacturing to innovation to renewables to defense and so on."

At the event, Ambassador Keshap and Edward Knight both emphasized how India's G20 presidency this year and the United States' focus on "friend-shoring"

presents a momentous opportunity to highlight the importance of the U.S.-India economic partnership, and a fertile backdrop to make landmark progress on U.S.-India trade issues.

Ambassador Keshap stated "The upcoming U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum presents a strong opportunity for both of our countries to advance their economic convergence. Progress on harmonizing investment and commerce policies, intensifying cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, and lowering barriers to trade will enable industry to deliver sustained growth, job creation, and economic resilience for both our nations."

**Edward Knight of Nasdaq highlighted the existing and potential future role of American capital markets in powering**

India's economic rise, and in connecting India's talent, startup ecosystem, and rapidly expanding industrial capacity with global capital.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

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

#### National School of Logistics to come up at Tripura



Union Minister of Port Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated the School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication at Tripura's capital Agartala.....



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## MARINE NEWS



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

## Navy hardly places orders with private ship yards in the country

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The 28 Indian shipyards contribute a miniscule less than half a per cent of the world's ship building capacity while China along with Japan and South Korea account for over ninety per cent of the world's ship turn over

**India has 28 shipyards – six are public sector undertakings (PSUs), two are owned by state governments, and the remaining 20 are in the private sector.**

Despite the number of private shipyards on the list, many are sitting idle



Private shipyard

and most ship-builders are debt-ridden. The reason is the dominance of Defense Public sector undertakings in securing orders with the exception being Larsen and Toubro (L&T). **The navy places all its major orders with defense public sector**

**undertakings** and with the result the private ship yards are thrown out of the business. Even a major private ship yard like L and T near Chennai gets only a fraction of the orders from the Navy and the coastguards

Statistics show that nearly 90 per cent of government orders, consisting of warships and submarines for the Indian Navy and patrol vessels for the Coast Guard, are placed on the public-sector shipyards, whose order books always remain full. For reasons mentioned earlier, few shipping companies wish to order merchant ships on private Indian yards."

Again, recalling the cancellation of OPVs by the Indian Navy, Commodore Samaddar explains that had the contacts moved ahead, the navy could have saved a few thousand crores, given

the low cost of the OPVs then. "In fact, the demand for such OPVs is massive worldwide and India could have exported to its neighbouring countries," he adds.

**For India's maritime economy, the strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific needs no reiteration.** The region accounts for 65 per cent of the world's GDP, 63 per cent of the world's population and a little over 50 per cent of global trade. The Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) crisscrossing across the Indo-Pacific provide access to minerals, materials and markets that are the bedrock of every economy in the region and beyond.

## Tamil Nadu Puducherry face the worst sea erosion: Report

CHENNAI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Nearly fifty per cent of Tamil Nadu's coastline face sea erosion notwithstanding the steps taken by the state government to contain it. The measures include

building of hard structures on the coast including groynes, construction of sea walls and break waters

**Of the 991.47 km of Tamil Nadu's mapped coastline, a whopping 422.94 kilometers (42.7 per cent) continues to**



Ill-effects of sea erosion in TN coastline

experience erosion and now the state policy makers are grappling for more nature-based soft or hybrid solutions. The shoreline changes assessment along Tamil Nadu coast was conducted by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)

as part of the National Shoreline Assessment System.

The report was released by the state PWD Minister EV Velu, Minister for Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports Department at a workshop on "Marine Spatial Planning for Tamil

Nadu", which was attended by multiple stakeholders.

According to the report, **Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in India experiencing worst coastal erosion** after West Bengal (60.5 per cent), Puducherry (56.2 per cent) and Kerala (46.4 per cent). Overall during 1990 and 2018, Tamil Nadu has lost 1,802 hectares of land due to erosion. The worst affected district is Ramanathapuram, which lost 413.37 hectares, followed by Nagapattinam 283.69 hectares and Kancheepuram 186.06 hectares. On the other hand, Chennai lost just 5.03 hectares.

## UK is set to ban single-use plastic cutlery and plates

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**UK Single-Use Plastic Ban:** Single-use plastics are typically items that are discarded after being used only once and do not go through the recycling process.

The UK government ban



Environment Secretary Therese Coffey

on single-use plastic will be imposed on items including plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain kinds of polystyrene cups and food containers.

**The ban, at present, will not be applicable to plastic items found in supermarkets or shops. The government plans to address this separately.**

Environment Secretary Therese Coffey confirmed the decision and said, "This new ban will have a huge impact to stop the pollution of billions of pieces of plastics and help to protect the natural environment for future generations," BBC reported.

"We've already taken major steps in recent years - but we know there is more to do, and we have again listened to the public's calls," she added.



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**SAGAR SANDESH - Maritime Tabloid English Weekly Thrice E-Paper**  
Published by Dr R Lakshmi pathy (Owner) on behalf of Professional Publications (P) Ltd, "Sriram", 27, Sathyasai Nagar, Madurai - 625 003. Published at "Lakshmi", 21, Sathyasai Nagar, Madurai - 625 003, Tamilnadu. RNI No. TNENG/2012/41759.



## P&O Ferries Cuts Carbon Emissions by 85,000 Tons through Maximising Efficiency Of Sailings

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**P**&O FERRIES reduced its carbon footprint by 85,000 tons as it took advantage of new partnerships to sail less frequently and maximise the efficiency of its operations.

The integrated transport and logistics company's best-ever sustainability performance – which amounts to a 9 per cent carbon reduction – came as it planned to welcome two new 230-metre super-ferries this year, the most



**P&O FERRIES reduced its carbon footprint by 85,000 tons**

sustainable ships ever to sail on the English Channel, which will result in further carbon emissions reductions this year.

Peter Hebblethwaite, Chief Executive of P&O Ferries, said: "The lion's share of the reduction

is attributable to our innovative space charter agreement signed with our competitor DFDS 18 months ago, whereby we make freight space on our Dover-Calais ships available to one another to maintain customer

service levels on the route and ensure its continued resilience."

**The space charter agreement with DFDS means that P&O Ferries will sail 9,000 times on the English Channel in 2023, down from 16,000 times in 2019, the last comparable year.**

Other efficiency measures which reduced carbon emissions in 2022 included the fitting of new propellers on an Irish Sea ship, which saved 7 per cent of carbon emissions, and changes to the Larne-Cairnryan timetable, which led to 370 fewer sailings in the year and a 3.6 per cent carbon reduction.

Future sustainability initiatives include a hull painting programme and replacing propellers on other ships.

This year P&O Ferries will take delivery of two new super-ferries, which will cut fuel use by 40 per cent through a combination of fuel and battery propulsion. Together with its freight and overnight routes on the North Sea, the revolutionary double-ended ships will offer customers travelling between Britain and Europe an unrivalled range of services connecting sea and land and will secure P&O Ferries' position as a vital part of Europe's transport infrastructure into the 2040s.

## Ganga Vilas all set for the longest river cruise

VARANASI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

**T**he triple-deck cruise, MV Ganga Vilas, arrived in Varanasi and is all set to embark on the world's longest river journey from Varanasi to Dibrugarh in Assam.

A group of 36 Swiss tourists who have arrived in the temple city have booked the cruise, which will be flagged off by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing on January 13.

The 52-day journey on the world's longest river will cost around Rs 13 lakh, with an average fare of about Rs 25,000 per person per night.

**The Ganga Vilas, a river ship travelling from Varanasi to Dibrugarh through Bangladesh, will**

**travel 3200 kilometres in 50 days.**

The flag-off ceremony at Varanasi will be attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister of Ports Sarbananda Sonowal. Following that, they will open a high-end tent city along Ganga's banks.

Following the flag-off, the Ganga Vilas will depart for Dibrugarh carrying 33



**The triple-deck cruise, MV Ganga Vilas**

tourists, including 32 Swiss and one German.

The 62.5 m long, 12.8 m wide, and 1.35 m deep

vessel will travel 3200 km while navigating 27 different river systems in Bangladesh and India.

## MARINE NEWS

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**T**he Biden administration 10 Jan released the US National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization.

Developed by the departments of Energy, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the blueprint provides a strategy for cutting all greenhouse emissions from the transportation sector by 2050.



**Port of Los Angeles**

In the area of maritime transportation, the report notes that, because of the international scope of the industry, "effective decarbonization will require inter governmental collaboration that aligns with industry and community needs." Further, as vessels have a

long fleet turnover time, "understanding the costs, standards, and requirements is critical for long-term investment planning."

To decarbonise the sector by 2050 "will require innovative practices, targeted regulations, and a strong and immediate commitment to innovation and deployment of new and emerging technologies."

Priority actions identified in the blueprint include research and innovation on viable alternative fuels and new technologies. "Promising

fuels and technologies that can support maritime decarbonization" are listed as sustainable liquid and gaseous fuels; electric vessels; cold-ironing; energy efficiency and hybridisation; renewable energy; and exhaust treatment and carbon capture.

Another priority is engagement with international and domestic stakeholders – such as vessel owner/operators, ports, terminal operators and energy providers – to develop and implement

effective strategies and regulation.

A third priority under the blueprint is infrastructure investments and improved design and planning in clean technologies and fuels for maritime applications funded through new and existing federal programs. "Resources are necessary," says the report, "for activities including clean vessel upgrades, retrofits, or conversions, and essential charging and refueling infrastructure."



# World's Biggest Container Ship Skips India in Blow to Trade

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

India's biggest state-run container handling facility, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, lacks the 17-meter draft needed for such vessels to navigate. One facility that has said it can handle the behemoth — Mundra Port, operated by billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate — has so far been skipped.

**The 17,292-TEU APL Raffles is the biggest vessel to have berthed there, in January 2022 with 13,159 TEUs on board.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of making India the world's factory risks being held back by the country's inability to attract bigger container

ships due to inadequate port infrastructure. **Most harbors along India's coast aren't deep enough to handle vessels like the Ever Alot**, the world's largest boxship at 400 meters long and with a capacity of more than 24,000 twenty-foot equivalent units.

Neighboring Sri Lanka as well as Malaysia have in recent months received visits from the Ever Alot, which can rival the Empire State Building in length.

**"Ultra-large ships provide economies of scale,"** said Shailesh Garg, a director at Drewry Maritime Advisors.

"However, increasing the vessel size alone will not help in speeding up the movement of goods to and



**India fails to attract bigger container ships due to inadequate port infrastructure**

from the hinterland." Road and rail links from ports to warehouses, factories and shops also need to be improved, he said.

Poor shipping connectivity has hindered India's integration into the global value chain, according to a Reserve Bank of India report in 2022.

Mundra is India's

highest-ranking port in terms of performance, sitting at 48th in an index compiled by the World Bank Group and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

**Weak infrastructure is undermining Modi's target to lift the share of manufacturing to 25% of gross domestic product from 14%**

While only 0.7% of the operational global container fleet is comprised of vessels with a draft of 17 meters or deeper, these larger ships are becoming more vital to Europe and China trade. That's a route that India can be part of given its strategic location between the Suez Canal and the Strait of Malacca.

Vizhinjam Port in south India's Kerala is a deep-sea facility with a natural draft of 20-24 meters, so it is capable of attracting bigger ships. It is expected to be operating by 2024, said Roy Paul, a spokesman for Adani Group, which is developing the project.

Another port in Maharashtra that has a natural draft of 18 meters is expected to be completed in 2028, according to the government's Maritime India Vision 2030.

## LOGISTIC NEWS

### Country's longest train to run 4 days a week

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Northeast Frontier Railways has decided to increase the frequency of the country's longest train connecting Kanniyakumari with Dibrugarh in Upper Assam. **Vivek Express is set to increase from existing bi-weekly to four days a week from May, 2023.** The train covers a distance of 4,189 km and traverses through nine states. The journey works out to four days.

From Kanyakumari, the train takes a circuitous route by passing southern Tamil Nadu through Kerala.

**The first service of Vivek**

Express was started on November 19, 2011, is currently the longest train route in the country by both distance and time. The train has 59 stoppage points across its journey. In a statement, the Railways' said, "existing timings and stoppages of the train will remain unchanged."

During its journey towards Kanyakumari, Vivek Express departs from Dibrugarh at 19:25 hours and reached the destination at 22:00 hours on the fourth day. While, in return, the train departs from Kanyakumari at 17:20 hours and reaches Dibrugarh at 20:50 hours on the fourth day of the journey.



Vivek Express, the longest train

## Wear masks on long flights: WHO urges amid spread of XBB.1.5

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Rapid increase of the new Omicron sub-variant in several nations including United States has led World Health Organization (WHO) to recommend masks for the travellers.

WHO's senior emergency officer for Europe - Catherine Smallwood has said: **"Passengers should be advised to wear masks in high-risk settings such as long-haul flights"**, reported Reuters.

According to the WHO official, wearing masks should be a "recommendation



**According to the WHO official, wearing masks should be a "recommendation issued to passengers arriving from anywhere where there is widespread Covid-19 transmission".**

Issued to passengers arriving from anywhere where there is widespread Covid-19 transmission".

The subvariant has been detected in Europe as well in small but growing numbers, according to WHO official.

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

### Export promotion measure through Cooperatives

The Union Cabinet has approved setting up and promoting a National Level Multistate Cooperative Export Society under the,.....



### Recession led fall in Sri Lankan Exports

Sri Lanka's earnings from Exports declined for the second consecutive month in November while the trade deficit widened from the previous month,.....



## Saudi Arabia to upgrade its container terminals at its port in Dammam

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) has announced the laying of the foundation stone for upgrading and developing two container terminals at King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) concession signed with Saudi Global Ports (SGP) valued at over 7 billion riyals, on January 10th.

**The launch ceremony was attended by Omar Hariri, President of Mawani, and Eng. Abdullah Al-Zamil, SGP Chairman, alongside senior logistics and maritime executives.**

The project is set to take the national maritime regulator a step closer to realizing its Saudi Vision 2030-inspired roadmap centered around optimizing port operations



Dammam port

and modernizing infrastructure to build a booming and sustainable maritime ecosystem while fulfilling the aspirations of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy (NTLS) to position the Kingdom as a global logistics destination connecting three major continents.

**The concession will work on**

**refurbishing berths and facilities across the Port's first container terminal besides expanding berths and overhauling the container yard within the second container terminal to enable the Arabian Gulf hub to handle giant containerships. The development works will also add a custom-built sandbox to test cutting-edge**

technologies and conceptualize new processes before going online.

The project is expected to raise the Port's overall capacity to 7.5 million TEUs and strengthen the nation's supply chains, boost its foreign trade, and improve the Kingdom's rank in global indices.

As part of its long-term developmental strategy to deploy 160 high-impact projects at a total cost of over 4 billion riyals, Mawani is keen on partnering with leading industry players to transform Saudi ports into engines of growth and investment in the shipping and transportation sectors.

2022 represented a monumental year for King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam and its operator SGP with record-breaking annual performances across various indicators yielding the Port's highest container throughput in its history at over two million TEUs.

**Mawani strives to realize Saudi Arabia's economic and social ambitions.**

## UK's container port trials Hydrogen-Fuelled Tractor

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The British port operator, Associated British Ports (ABP) is the first UK port company to test a hydrogen-fuelled tractor.

This joint pilot project received funding from ORE Catapult through Innovate UK's Hydrogen Innovation Initiative (HII), following the funding of initial feasibility from the Department

for Transport's Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition.

**Thus, this demonstration aims to contribute to the decarbonisation of port operations.**

Simon Bird, regional director of the Humber ports, commented, "This demonstration of using hydrogen in port equipment in Immingham has been able to highlight the challenges and benefits of using this zero-emission energy in our port."

UK's maritime minister, Baroness Vere stated, "Decarbonising the maritime sector goes beyond cutting emissions at sea, and this trial demonstrates that hydrogen will play a significant part in UK's port operations and shed their dependence on fossil fuels."



The first hydrogen-fuelled tractor will be used at the container terminal at the Port of Immingham in the United Kingdom

# Sagar Sandesh

## Weekly Thrice E-Paper

is bringing out a colourful

# 74th Republic Day

## SPECIAL EDITION

on the occasion of  
"Republic Day 2023"  
Scheduled to be  
released on  
January 25, 2023  
(issue dated  
26.01.2023  
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## Cargo time release in Major Ports: a study

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

With National Time Release Study of exports and imports in the 15 major ports during the first week of 2023 is underway. It is expected that continuous efforts towards trade facilitation, both at the policy level and administratively at the port level, can help India offer its trade community an environment that entails minimal time and cost and provides greater certainty regarding both.

The ongoing National TRS 2023 is seeking to explore more nuanced issues and gain deeper insights pertaining to challenges faced by trade that go beyond documentary clearance, particularly those relating to exports especially when the world



is poised to enter the recession phase..

For instance, National Time Release Study 2022 indicated that considerable time is taken after the grant of Customs clearance (called Let Export order) to the final departure of goods (vessel sail off or aircraft take-off), which is attributable to larger logistics issues. This is a key focus area of the 2023 study, to be studied through direct stakeholder engagements.

Studies such as TRS are acknowledged to be effective tool for performance measurement and more importantly bring together various stakeholders to achieve common goal of higher and more efficient EXIM trade

The National TRS 2022 had affirmed the direction of the trade facilitative initiatives, including the focus on "Path to Promptness" comprising

pre-arrival processing, risk based facilitation, trust-based authorized economic operator program and coordinated border management through Single Window scheme..

The annual TRS was pioneered at the Jawaharlal Nehru Customs House, the largest Custom House in 2017, focussing initially on imports. It has shown a consistent improvement in import release time from 181 hours in 2017 to 88 hours in 2022, which becomes even more impressive when compared with about 14 days that it took to clear an import consignment in 2010, as per a report by Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Over the years, India has progressed to conducting a National TRS since 2019 that covers 15 major customs ports in the country, including all the four modes of trade, namely seaport, dry port (inland container

depot), airport and land ports. These ports accounts for about 75 percent of the EXIM trade of the country. The ongoing National TRS 2023 study is 4<sup>th</sup> annual national-level study since 2019 (excluding 2020 because of the pandemic) and covers the export and import documents filed during the first week of the calendar year.

Recognizing that the cargo release time depends on a variety of factors, including the mode of cargo movement, National Trade Facilitation Action Plan 2020-23 aims to bring down the import release time to 48 hours for Sea Cargo, Inland Container Depots and Land Customs Stations and 24 hours for Air Cargo and export release time to 24 hours for Sea Cargo, Inland Container Depots and Land Customs Stations and 12 hours for Air Cargo.

## Sittwe Port Project Ready for Operation: Shipping Minister

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Monday 9 Jan said the Sittwe port project in Myanmar is developed and ready for operation

The project will connect Sittwe port in Myanmar to the India-Myanmar border and is expected to contribute to the economic development of the northeastern states by opening up the sea route for the products.

The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project is said to be the most significant project that India has undertaken in Myanmar.

According to a statement,



Sittwe Port

the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project was jointly identified by India and Myanmar to create a multi-modal mode of transport for shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar as well as to the northeastern region of India through Myanmar.

It also provides a

strategic link to the North-East, thereby reducing pressure on the Siliguri Corridor.

Sonowal while talking to the media in Guwahati announced an investment of Rs 1,016 crore for the development of inland waterways in Assam for the forthcoming years.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the foundation stones for two major initiatives while inaugurating maritime skill centres for the northeast to ramp up capacity in Pandu port in Guwahati on January 13.

The other initiatives are the Ship Repair Facility at Pandu Multi Modal terminal and an elevated road connecting with the Multi Modal Terminal at Pandu with National Highway 27 in Guwahati.

The Minister said that the facilities are part of major initiatives planned by his Ministry for revamping inland waterways in Assam and the other northeastern states.

A comprehensive package to develop Brahmaputra (National Waterway-2) has now been enhanced to Rs 474 crore as well as an enhanced package of Rs 148 crore has been earmarked for the development of Barak river (NW-16).

Highlighting the success of the rejuvenated waterways as an alternative conduit of logistics under the Narendra Modi government, Sonowal said that the cargo movement in Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) has increased from 2 MT in 2014-15 to 5.43 MT in 2021-22.

"Be it the cargo or passenger movement via waterways, we are planning and executing policies to build capacity in the region," he said.



## Paradip Port reaches 100 Million tons throughput in fastest ever time

BHUVANESHWAR  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Paradip Port achieved yet another 100 Million Metric Tons of cargo handling, for the sixth year in a row. The Port attained cargo throughput of 100.22 MMT till January 9, 2023 in the current fiscal. Last Year, the mark was achieved on February 18, 2022. Thus, the figure was reached 40 days in advance i.e. in 284 days in the current fiscal, against 324 days in the last financial year, registering 15.77 per cent growth in total cargo throughput till

date, according to a Port release.

The port is poised to set an all-time record cargo handling of more than 125 MMT in the current fiscal. Various system improvement measures introduced during the year fuelled the growth.

Coastal thermal coal handling showed a remarkable 58.11 per cent surge in comparison to the previous fiscal, also constituting about 31.56 per cent of the total cargo volume.

Paradip Port is emerging as a coastal shipping hub of the



country and has plans even to coastal ship thermal coal to power houses located in Rajasthan, UP and Haryana.

Marking the occasion, a symbolic cake was cut in the Board Room by Mr P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority

(PPA), in the presence of Mr A. K. Bose, Deputy Chairman, and other HoDs and Deputy HoDs.

Mr Haranadh expressed his gratitude to Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping &

Waterways, under whose dynamic leadership and guidance PPA could turn a new chapter.

He congratulated all officers/employees, the user industries, stevedores, steamer agents, trade unions, and PPP operators for their continued faith in the ability of the port to serve them.

The Chairman also appreciated the support of government authorities like the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, the Govt. of Odisha, Indian Railways, Customs, Immigration Department, Dock Safety, MMD, as well as the partnership with all service providers/terminal operators, the release said.

## Adani purchases an Israeli Port



NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

A Consortium led by India's Adani Group has completed the purchase of Haifa Port in Northern Israel for 1.15 billion US dollars, Israel's Finance Ministry said

The sale of one Israel's main seaports has taken five years and marks the culmination of a nearly two-decade reform of an

underperforming sector plagued for years by labor strikes.

Israel has been selling its state-owned ports and building new private docks in an effort to bring down costs and cut above-average waiting times for vessels to unload.

About 99 per cent of all goods move in and out of Israel by sea and port upgrades are needed to maintain economic growth.

Israel announced in

July it would sell the port in Haifa, a major trade hub on the Mediterranean, to winning bidders Adani Ports and local chemicals and logistics group Gadot. China's Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG) last year opened a new port across the bay in Haifa.

The entry of Shanghai port and the Adani-led group promises to boost Israel's standing as a regional trade hub.

## MARINE NEWS

### Cyberattack hits DNV ShipManager software

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service



DNV confirmed 9 Jan that its ShipManager fleet management software was hit by a **cyberattack** on the evening of Saturday, January 7, and that DNV specialists had shut down ShipManager's IT servers in response to the incident.

"All users can still use the onboard, offline

functionalities of the ShipManager software," said DNV. "At this point in time there are no indications that any other software or data by DNV is affected."

DNV, which itself offers a wide range of cybersecurity products, said that its "experts are working closely with global IT security partners to investigate the incident and to put in place a technical recovery plan and will ensure operations are online as soon as possible."

DNV is in dialogue with the Norwegian police about the cyberattack incident.

Affected customers have been informed of a 24/7 support hotline.

## LOGISTIC NEWS

### India Inc mopped up \$5.20 bn in November via ECBs

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

India Inc's resource raising via the external commercial borrowing (ECB) route at \$5.20 billion in November 2022 is the highest in FY23 so far, going by RBI data.

Overseas fundraising in November is 3.63 times what Indian companies mopped up in the preceding month. In October 2022, India Inc raised \$1.43 billion via ECBs.

Reliance Industries Ltd and Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd

together accounted for about 58 per cent of the resources raised by India Inc.

These two companies raised \$1.5 billion each.

Besides the aforementioned companies, the other big fundraisers in November include Renew Surya Roshni Private Ltd (\$985 million), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (\$250 million), JSW Vijayanagar Metallics Ltd (\$200 million), Adani Solar Energy AP Six Private Limited (\$196.62 million), and Larsen and Toubro Limited (\$107 million).



Reliance Industries Ltd and Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd account for about 58% of the resources raised by India Inc



## Extension in Bid Due Date for Commercial Auction of Coal Blocks

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The bid due date for 6th round and 2nd attempt of 5th round of commercial coal mine auctions has been extended by two weeks from the earlier bid due date, up to January 13, 2023.

**In order to provide adequate time to the bidders**



Coal block

**for due diligence and to promote larger participation, it has been decided to extend bid due date by another two weeks.**

The Ministry of Coal has made certain amendments in conditions of Tender Document and Coal Block Development & Production Agreement (CBDPA) based on consultations

with Industry and feedback received.

Instead of annual revision in Performance Bank Guarantee based on National Coal Index, first revision in the Performance Bank Guarantee will now be done upon grant of mine opening permission and the relevant grade of coal for determining the revenue payable in case of shortfall in coal production shall be as per the grade declared by CCO.

## SEAFARER NEWS

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Shipping companies should allow at least three months for crew changes due to the recent rise in seafarers from South Asia and the challenges in arranging visas for them, says BCS Group – Boers Crew Services.

**This has meant that the complex visa process needed for crew changes is taking even longer as the embassies do not have previous experience in dealing with these nationalities, and companies are not allowing enough time for the application process.**

Hans Boers, Group director and Co-Owner says good communication is crucial between Boers and the embassies to ensure the visas can be completed as swiftly as possible.

Leading specialists in crew services, Boers says **the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has led to a rise in seafarers from other nationalities including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, to help fill the shortage of crews.** Ukraine and Russia used to contribute nearly 30 per cent of sea farers for the global shipping industry before the war.

"The visas are taking longer for these nationalities because they are new for

## Shipping companies should give 3 months time for crew change



Crew change

the embassies and there are a lot more complexities to deal with and it is taking longer for the visas to be issued. We have a very good communication with the Visa Facilitation Service and back-office staff at the embassies which is vital for the process.

"I do feel that shipping companies should be arranging crew changes much more in advance because of this issue. Using our letter of invitation and our networks with the embassies, the visas can be issued on time – **but companies need to be applying three months in advance.**"

As leading industry experts in facilitating crew changes in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, Boers speaks

regularly to people in Brussels about the issues with visa arrangements who have told them some companies do not have enough understanding of the system and how to get a visa arranged.

"For example, in the case that we are asking for visa on arrival, the border police will check the history of the vessel and see if that vessel has stopped at Schengen ports and had the opportunity to arrange the visa.

"For a visa on arrival, we need proof that the vessel was scheduled to come into port at the last minute. **So it's really important that companies understand the rules for different countries and what they need to do.**"

## LOGISTIC NEWS

### Stop bonfire on Bhogi day as it would affect flights in Chennai airport

CHENNAI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Chennai airport authorities have urged people of Chennai to stop the customary bonfire as part of the Bhogi celebrations on January 13 as it would affect movement of planes

**Bhogi celebration is the customary bonfire practiced preceding Pongal, the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu.**

In 2018, the Airfield was covered with thick smoke emanating from the bonfire reducing visibility at Chennai Airport which in turn lead to diversions and cancellation of flights much to the inconvenience of passengers. Nearly 73 departures and 45 arrivals were affected.

However, during 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 Bhogi, through intense sensitisation among public and communities around Chennai Airport, the effect of the bonfire could be minimised with

fewer disruptions in air traffic.

This time around too, as a precautionary measure and to avoid any flight disruptions, we **sincerely request public staying in the proximity of Airport not to burn waste materials which creates thick smoke during 'Bhogi'.**

With the present foggy weather of Chennai, characteristic of winter, the scenario can be worse because of the smoke from bhogi bonfire. Since such activity brings down visibility in and around Chennai Airport leading to diversion(s) / cancellation(s) as well as passenger's inconvenience, we will be extremely thankful to the valued public support for helping aviation at Chennai.

**Pamphlets briefing concerns regarding ill effects of Bhogi bonfire to aviation are being distributed to villages in proximity to Chennai Airport.**



'Bhogi' smoke affects flights in Chennai airport



# Indian Railway project to cut the distance between Jaffna and Colombo by one hour

COLOMBO  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Indian railways are taking steps to modernize the railway line between Jaffna and Colombo when it took up a track rehabilitation project between North and North western provinces at a cost of around 90 million US dollars according to sri lankan media reports.

When completed the travel time between the two cities is expected to come down by over an hour.

The railway line links Omanthai in northern province with Maho in North western province

**The renovation of the over-115-year-old railway line constructed during British colonial rule is to enable trains to run on the line at**



India has executed projects of over 1 billion US dollars in the railways sector

a maximum speed of 120 kmph, cutting the travel time between Colombo and Jaffna by an hour. British ruled Ceylon's first train from Colombo arrived at Northern Jaffna on August 1, 1905.

Sri Lanka's Transport Minister, Bandula Gunawardane thanked India for the support extended to Sri Lanka, especially in the transport

sector. Appreciating the work done by IRCON in Sri Lanka in the past few years, he called for greater railway cooperation between the two countries.

High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay who participated at the launch of the project, said that India has executed projects of over 1 billion US dollars in the railways sector.

As a long-standing development partner of Sri Lanka, Government of India has executed several projects in Sri Lanka under its concessional loans and grant schemes. Of the different sectors of cooperation under these facilities, the up-gradation and modernization of Sri

Lankan Railways has been one of the priority areas," the Indian High Commission said in a statement.

Started its operations in Sri Lanka in March 2009, IRCON International, a subsidiary of the Indian Railways, has contributed towards modernisation of Sri Lanka railways by reconstructing the entire railway line network of about 253 Km in Northern Province and upgrading of the 115-km-long Southern line.

**IRCON has also contributed to ensuring safety and reliability through a modern signaling and telecommunication system on a 330 km stretch of railway line in Sri Lanka.**

## Cabinet allocates Rs 19,744 crore, approving National Green Hydrogen Mission

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

India's decarbonisation initiative received a big boost last week when the Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) with an allocation of ₹19,744 crore.

Its aim is to produce five million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030, reduce emissions by nearly 50 million tonnes annually, save India ₹1 trillion in fossil fuel imports, attract investments worth ₹8 trillion by 2030, and create 600,000 green jobs.

India spends massive \$160 billion of foreign exchange annually on energy imports and this bill is likely to double in the next 15 years.

The green hydrogen policy was first announced in August 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a hub for producing and exporting green hydrogen.

To fulfil these pledges, topping the agenda is the adoption of renewable power and vehicle electrification, and the need to prioritise green hydrogen as a solution to decarbonise sectors



Building Decarbonization with huge investments

such as refining, manufacturing ammonia, methanol, and iron and steel, and heavy-duty trucking.

The good news is that India has an advantage in terms of low-cost renewable electricity (green hydrogen is produced from renewable sources by electrolysis). This, besides rapidly falling electrolyser prices, can enable green hydrogen to be economical.

With collaboration among innovators, entrepreneurs (Reliance and Adani have announced manufacturing plans) and the government, green hydrogen can be an energy molecule that is "made-in-India" and a bulwark against the climate crisis.

### 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](http://www.portport.in) and click the tool vessel position / Ports and terminal.

**WEST COAST**

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

**EAST COAST**

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



## EXIM TREND

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

# India's sugar export profile

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

India has exported 16.92 lakh tons of sugar till January 4 during the ongoing 2022-23 sugar marketing year, including 59,596 ton to neighboring China, Sugar exporters trade body AISTA said on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Among other neighbouring nations, India has exported 1.47 lakh tons

of sugar to Bangladesh, and 82,462 tons to Sri Lanka during October-January 4 of the current marketing year, All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) said in a statement.

**The sugar marketing year runs from October to September.** The government has allowed export of 6 million tons till May of the 2022-23 marketing year.



The sugar marketing year runs from October to September

According to AISTA, mills have exported a total of 16,92,751 tons of sugar from October 1, 2022 to January 4, this year.

Over 3.47 lakh tonnes of sugar is under loading, while 2.54 lakh tons of sugar has been delivered to refineries considered to be deemed export in the said period, it said.

Of the total exports undertaken so far, maximum exports have been to Somalia at 1.70 lakh tons, followed by the UAE at 1.69 lakh tons, Djibouti at 1.50 lakh tons, and Sudan at 1.37 lakh tons.

India exported 1.36 lakh tons to Malaysia, 1.18 lakh tons to Indonesia, and 1.08

lakh tons to Saudi Arabia till January 4 of the current marketing year, AISTA added.

**Sugar exports from India, one of the world's major sugar-producing nations, stood at 11.2 million tons in the 2021-22 marketing year.**

AISTA has made an initial projection of sugar output to be lower at 35.8 million tons during the 2022-23 marketing year, from a record 36.5 million tons in the previous year.

# India diversifies crude imports

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

India increased the number of its Crude oil suppliers from 27 countries in 2006-07 to 39 in 2021-22, adding new suppliers like Columbia, Russia, Libya, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea while strengthening our relationship with countries like US and Russia, said Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

In a statement he said **India has been able to navigate through the most formidable energy crisis the world has seen since the 1973 oil crisis** thanks to its four-pronged energy security strategy:

Diversification of energy supplies; Increasing India's Exploration & Production footprint; Meeting energy transition through Gas-based economy, Green Hydrogen and EVs; and Meeting energy transition through Gas-based economy, Green Hydrogen and EVs..

**"Diesel prices**, which in India between December 2021 and December 2022 rose by only 3 per cent, went up by 34 per cent in the USA, 36 per cent in Canada, 25 per cent in Spain and 10 per cent in the UK. There was a massive impact due to the Central excise cuts announced by the Government in May



Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

2022 and November 2021, amounting to Rs. 13 per liter of petrol and Rs.15 per liter on diesel cumulatively, along with significant VAT rate cuts by many Indian states.

**Govt. of India intends to increase India's exploration acreage to 0.5 million sq. km. by 2025 and 1.0 million sq. km. by 2030.**

The Govt. has been successful in reducing the 'No Go' area by 99%, opening .91 million sq. km. of acreage; we have also established the National Data Repository (NDR) and plans are afoot for a cloud-based and AI/ML-powered National Data NDR 2.0. (the fact remains that there

has been no major oil or gas discoveries in the country during the last ten years and that the crude and petroleum product import bill has gone up substantially, over 80 per cent of the domestic requirement of crude and petro products are met through imports)

India increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53 per cent in 2013-14 to 10.17 per cent in 2022 and advanced its target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 to 2025-26.

Govt. of India is investing Rs.19,744 crores into the National Green Hydrogen Mission for developing green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

India's imports from China dropped by nearly Six per cent in November 2022 over the same month of the previous year, shows the latest trade data available from the Department of Commerce.

**The data shows India's imports from the neighboring country declined to 7.65 billion US dollars in November 2022 as compared to 8.08 billion US dollars in the same month of 2021.** The key items seeing a decline

# India's imports from China declines

in imports are—personal computers (laptops, palmtops), urea, and diammonium phosphate.

In October 2022, India's imports from China had dropped by 9.73 per cent to 7.85 billion US dollars from 8.70 billion US dollars during the same month a year ago.

**The decline in imports from China during the last two months contrasts with the increase in India's total imports during this period.**

Despite a drop in the

two consecutive months, India's imports from China in the first eight months of the financial year 2022-23, are still 14.78 per cent higher (67.92 billion US dollars during April-November, 2022) while compared to the figure of 59.17 billion US dollars in the same period of the previous fiscal.

The decline in imports from China comes at a time when the neighboring country saw a spike in Covid-19 cases and strict



Decline in imports from China by 6% in Nov 2022

restrictions to contain the spread of infection in recent months.

**The decline is significant as the monthly imports from the neighboring**

**country have hit a record high during the current financial year. In July 2022, India's monthly imports from China had crossed the 10 billion US dollars mark.**