



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

# Sagar 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 27, 2023 | Voyage 11 Wave 150

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

**PAGE - 3**

Passenger ferry services stopped in Cochin due to protests by .....

**PAGE - 5**

DG Shipping issuing New Maritime guidelines.....

**PAGE - 8**

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal unveils major .....

**PAGE - 12**

We are a 24-hour government available to our business community

## IRS Review of 2022 and Outlook for 2023 - going from strength to strength



Mr. Arun Sharma

2022 has been another significant and positive year for the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)** as the organization goes from strength to strength. IRS has once again achieved strong and sustained business growth with inroads into new markets. **The last 12 months have seen fleet addition of over 200 ships with more than 7 million GT – and an increased global geographical presence.**

Decarbonisation has remained high on the agenda for the organisation as the industry looks to reduce carbon emissions. Several initiatives have been taken toward the development of alternative fuels ecosystem. **IRS has conducted successful trials using biofuels with encouraging results.** Rules have been developed for **Ammonia and Hydrogen-fuelled vessels**, as well as Fixed Offshore Wind Turbine installations.

**Classification of the first hybrid battery-powered catamaran, built by Indian shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard, was another highlight.** The catamaran ferry, designed for shore charging and certified to carry

100 passengers, is propelled by a hybrid-electric propulsion system by means of lithium titanium oxide (LTO) batteries and DG Sets. IRS has developed Guidelines for battery powered vessels and the vessel was assigned with the notation “BATTERY PROP”.

The organisation has initiated a digitalisation journey along with a leading industry partner based on global best practices and adoption experience. It will focus on Digital Twin concept, data analytics, knowledge management as well as life cycle management of assets.

**IRS renewed its commitment to the Indian Defence forces** and has been engaged in several pioneering projects for Indian Navy, including diving support vessels, shallow water ASW corvettes, survey vessels large, floating dock and various auxiliary vessels. IRS is involved in Indian Coast Guard new construction projects like fast patrol vessels, interceptor crafts, pollution control vessels and several others. A series of nine Floating Border Outposts (FBOPs) for the Border Security Force, Ministry of Home Affairs have been classed as well.

Effective stakeholder engagement remains a key focus. **IRS has extended its commitment to the Asia Pacific region with new offices and an expanded service portfolio.** IRS Advisory Committee Meeting and a Customer Meet in Singapore - saw plans for the region outlined. IRS also hosted a stakeholder meet on research and development activities at its Mumbai head office, as part of efforts to strengthen initiatives in this field.

In addition, **IRS continued its drive to improve inland vessel safety throughout India**, having played an integral role in the drafting of the Inland Vessels Act 2021. Based on the IV Act 2021, IRS drafted rules in consultation with Ministry, State Governments and various other stakeholders. The draft Rules and Regulations for Construction and Classification of

Inland Waterways Ships are ship-type specific to ensure safety of cargo, assets and the environment.

**IRS signed MOUs with an array of shipyards such as GRSE, HSL, and GSL.** Agreements were also penned with a host of prominent educational institutions, including NITIE and Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

**Turn to page -2 >>**



### OSM India Crew Management Pvt. Ltd.

(OSM MARITIME GROUP)

RPSL-MUM-162032, Issued on 13/12/2019 and Valid till 13/12/2024

#### RANK REQUIREMENTS

##### LNG's

- Chief Engineer, Second Engineer, (Preferable with Q Flex experience)

##### Oil Chem

- AB
- Fitter (Watch Keeping)

##### Bulk Carriers

- Master
- Chief Officer
- Chief Engineer
- Second Engineer

##### Offshore

- AB, MTM, Fitter (MPSV experience)

Candidates to apply directly on link  
<https://osm.no/candidate/register/>

Mumbai Office

Contact Person :

Mr. Tejas Bhoweer, Mob: +91 8655941184

Mrs. Viraya Mascarenhas | Phone: +91 22 49742233

Address: 509, Powai Plaza, Central Avenue,  
Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai – 400076.

www.osm.no

Email: osm.india@osm.no

## IRS Review of 2022 and.... From Page : 1

There remains a resolute focus on training and upskilling staff through structured training and regular mentoring. Several training programs were conducted throughout the year for surveyors and senior staff towards ensuring continuous commitment to quality operations. The organisation has also taken initiatives to identify next generation leadership well equipped towards building a resilient and future ready organisation in an increasingly complex environment.

IRS was awarded the prestigious 'National Best Employer Brands 2021 Award' by the

World HRD Congress held in Mumbai during March'22 for having employee wellbeing and an employee-first philosophy at the core of its business.

**Executive Chairman, Mr Arun Sharma, said:** "IRS has continued to be a dynamic, pioneering and influential force throughout 2022. We have made great strides in the move towards sustainable shipping and remain trusted partners to a host of maritime stakeholders. 2023 will see more shifts in the regulatory landscape globally. However, the IRS reputation for excellence, quality, and maritime safety will remain unrivaled."

## PORT NEWS

### Asian Development Bank funds a Container terminal at JNPA

MUMBAI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Nhava Sheva Freeport Terminal Private Limited (NSFTPL) have signed a loan agreement for Rs 1066 Crores to upgrade the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal, Navi Mumbai, to enhance international trade in India through efficient, transparent, and state-of-the-art logistics infrastructure.

**NSFTPL is a special purpose vehicle jointly owned by J M Baxi Ports and Logistics Limited (JMBPL) and CMA Terminals.**

The funds will be used to upgrade existing berths and yards and install additional energy efficient equipment such as electric quay cranes," it said.

ADB further said these upgrades will expand the terminal's container handling capacity and attract vessels operating on important international shipping lanes.

"Global trade and supply

chains are vulnerable to shocks, and enhancing countries' capacity for trade is critical to the region's recovery from COVID-19 and its ongoing prosperity," ADB Vice-President for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships Ashok Lavasa said.

The financial support from ADB can boost economic competitiveness in India by developing world-class mega ports and boosting the efficiency of containerized cargo terminal operations.

The financial support from ADB can boost economic competitiveness in India



Work with an **Ownership Company**

MSC offers the best terms & conditions, internet on board, Indian food, one of the best round the year medical insurance scheme in the industry and a safe environment to work.

Make a change for the Better!!

**ENGINE TRAINER  
REQUIRED**

**G/E, 2/E OR E/O**

### DUAL LNG class vessel

Requirement of following ranks for yard delivery Container Vessel operated with LNG fuel

**Master / Chief Engineer / Gas Engineer / 2nd Engineer / 3rd Engineer & 4th Engineer**

### TRUST, RELIABILITY, STABILITY & GROWTH

For further details please call us on our toll free number 1800 209 2555 or simply walk into

### MSC CREWING SERVICES PVT. LTD.

Regd. Off: MSC House, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400059. (INDIA)

Tel : +91-22-6752 2555 | Fax : +91-22-6752 2525 | Website: [www.msccs.com](http://www.msccs.com) | Email: [jobs@msccs.com](mailto:jobs@msccs.com)

CIN No: U63090MH2005PTC151320

New Delhi - Tel: +91 11 43017707/08/09 Email : [delhi@msccs.com](mailto:delhi@msccs.com)

Chennai - Tel: +91 44 40155305/06/07 Email: [chennai@msccs.com](mailto:chennai@msccs.com)

Patna - Tel: +91 612 2260211/58 Email : [patna@msccs.com](mailto:patna@msccs.com)

Cochin - Tel: +91 484 4039010/9011 Email: [cochin@msccs.com](mailto:cochin@msccs.com)

Kolkata - Tel: +91 33 40393402/03/08 Email: [kolkata@msccs.com](mailto:kolkata@msccs.com)

RPSL No. – MUM – 052, Valid till 11/11/2026

We have NO AGENTS acting on behalf of the company. Be aware of fraudulent job offers misusing our name and report immediately to us

## MARINE NEWS



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

# Passenger ferry services stopped in Cochin due to protests by traveling public

COCHIN  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation, which resumed its passenger ferry roll on-roll off (Ro-Ro) service between Fort Kochi and Bolgatty on January 24th, halted the service after three trips following protests by the public, who demanded the service be extended till Vypeen according to media reports.

The container Ro-Ro of KSINC, **Adi Shankara**, was deployed for regular service in the absence of passenger vehicle Ro-Ro **Sethusagar-1**, which has been out of service for the last two months. However,



Passenger ferry halted as people demanded the service till Vypeen.

the service was limited till Bolgatty, failing to fulfill public demand for service till Vypeen.

**The service was halted as the public chose to skip the Ro-Ro journey.**

"Adi Shankara which is

three times bigger than the existing Ro-Ro vessels and has a capacity of 391 tons, had to stop operation as the public refused to utilize the service because it operated till Bolgatty," said a KSINC official.

Sethusagar-1 has

been out of service after developing a technical snag. "The strong demand from the public forced KSINC and Kochi Corporation to make an alternative arrangement. Sethusagar-1 will be sent for dry-docking at Cochin Shipyard Ltd by the end of this month. "The spare parts are expected to arrive at the shipyard by the time, and hopefully, the vessel will resume operations within 30 to 40 days of repair work," said a KSINC official.

A few years back, KSINC conducted a joint inspection with the Cochin Port Trust and civic bodies with regard to removing the sea rock and expanding the Vypeen Ro-Ro jetty. However, the report stated that it's not practical to remove the rock from the area as it will cause damage to the infrastructure near it," said a KSINC official.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

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

### India's Proposed Ship Age Limits to Have Negligible Effect on the Global Fleet

It's been one of the most read stories on the Splash site this month, but just how significant is the news coming out of India about soon-to-be-enacted ship age limits?



# MAXICON CONTAINER LINE PTE LTD

## Singapore

[www.maxiconline.com](http://www.maxiconline.com)



### INDIA

Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Mundra, Pipavav, Hazira, Kakinada, Tuticorin, Kattupalli, Vizag, Paradip, Cochin, Krishnapatnam, Haldia

### ISC

Chittagong, Karachi, Dhaka, Yangon, Colombo, Pangaon

### ICDs

Delhi, Ludhiana, Bangalore, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Birgunj (Nepal)

### SE ASIA

Singapore, Port Klang, Pasir Gudang, Penang, Jakarta, Surabaya, Belawan, Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh, Bangkok, Laem Chabang  
**East Malaysia -**  
Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu

### FAR EAST

Shanghai, Ningbo, Dalian, Xingang, Qingdao, Busan, Incheon, Kaohsiung

### MIDDLE EAST

Dubai, Bahrain, Sohar, Umm Qasar, Doha, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Hamad Port

## MAXICON SHIPPING AGENCIES (Division of SLAPL)

1001/1002, Maithili's Signets, Sector 30A, Vashi, New Mumbai - 400 703 • Tel : +91 22 4125 6608/27810471/72 / 4125 6666

### Contact

Mr. Ramchandra Salunke - [ram@maxiconline.com](mailto:ram@maxiconline.com)

Mr. Arangnath More - [arangnath@maxiconline.com](mailto:arangnath@maxiconline.com)

Mr. Aditya Bandekar - [mumbai\\_mktg@maxiconline.com](mailto:mumbai_mktg@maxiconline.com)

### Customer Service

Mr. Sushil Shirsath - [mumbai\\_odc@maxiconline.com](mailto:mumbai_odc@maxiconline.com)

Ms. Nilam Patil - [customercare@maxiconline.com](mailto:customercare@maxiconline.com)

Mr. Ranjit Rane - [sales@maxiconline.com](mailto:sales@maxiconline.com)

## MARINE NEWS



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

## Floating Jetty Planned on Brahmaputra in Assam

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The Centre will set up a modern floating jetty on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Assam's Sonitpur district to facilitate movement of cargo and passengers via waterways, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said.

The union government



Floating jetty

has prepared a plan to build such a facility at the historic Biswanath ghat, he said.

**Once the proposed floating jetty is operational, it will facilitate the docking of three ships simultaneously, Sonowal said, while interacting with BJP workers here on Saturday 21 Jan.**

"The new jetty will help the local economy flourish, as farmers and traders will be able to transport and export their produce via

waterways," Sonowal, the shipping minister, said.

**The Centre's 'Act East' policy has made "wonders for the economic revival of the region in the global trade map", he said.**

"By reenergising our traditional routes of trade via the Brahmaputra River, we have a tremendous opportunity to regain our glory as an important hub of trade in this part of the world," he said.

## Sri Lankan High commissioner to India meets Chairman Adani Group



Gautam Adani and Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda who was on a official visit to Gujarat met with Chairman of Adani Group, Gautam Adani and discussed planned investments in Sri Lanka, a statement from the Sri Lankan mission in New Delhi said. **The meeting was held at the Group's Corporate**

**House at Shantigram in Ahmedabad.**

Mr. Adani extended a very warm welcome to High Commissioner Moragoda, and the discussion that followed centred on the former's investments in Sri Lanka. Adani Group has already commenced its investments in the port sector of Sri Lanka, and the status of these investments was reviewed in the meeting.

**Adani Group has already**

**commenced its investments in the port sector of Sri Lanka. The group has bagged the contract for the construction of Colombo west container terminal last year. Construction of the terminal has begun and is expected to be commissioned in two years.**

Adani Group's plans to invest in the renewable energy sector in Sri Lanka were also discussed by the High Commissioner and the Group Chairman.

## Fate of 8 former Indian Naval Officials to be decided by a Doha court this week

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The bail petition for eight former Indian naval officers is expected to come up for hearing at a Doha court in a few days but whether the court's decision will end their eight month long solitary confinement or not is anybody's guess

**With no charges having been framed against them, the prospects of getting released on bail appears bright as of now.**

The possibility of the next hearing happening anytime now has been communicated by some senior officials Qatar government to family members of these naval veterans. The hearing can



Doha court

be as early as January 24th (though it has been slated for January 29th). With no charges being framed since they were taken by the Qatari Interior ministry officials on August 30th, 2022, there is the optimism of their being finally repatriated," said sources quoted by media reports.

Meanwhile, third consular access to the

arrested Indian naval officials was granted to the Indian Embassy in Doha a few days back. **India's Ambassador to Doha, Deepak Mital, has been able to meet all eight naval veterans during the consular access,** according to media reports. Some family members visiting Doha have been allowed in-person meetings with the officers.



**Mumbai Office**  
217, Secands Road, Unique Industrial Estate, off Veer Savarkar Marg,  
Bombay Dyeing Compound, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400025  
Ph: 022 - 24211583 / 24210193. Fax: 022 - 2421 2149

**Chennai Office**  
No.6, Nungambakkam First Lane (Opp. Regional Office, Indian Oil  
Corporation), Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai - 600 034  
Ph: 044-42664408

**Admin. Office**  
21 "LAKSHMI", Sathya Sai Nagar, Madurai-625 003. Ph : 0452 437 8300 / +91 72000 84864

EDITOR & PUBLISHER : **Dr R Lakshmi pathy**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR : **Dr G.R. Balakrishnan, M.A Phd.,**

**ADVISORY EDITORIAL BOARD**  
**Mr. Ashok C. Advani,**  
Chief Engineer - Advisor (Mumbai) RLINS, Ex General Manager - Pacific International Lines.  
**Capt. S.S. Jairam,**  
Master Mariner, Ex Director - Sealand Management services Pvt Ltd. Ex Chairman - MASSA.  
**Captain S.M. Halbe,**  
Chief Executive Officer - MASSA; Fellow of Nautical Institute, London and CMMI, Ex MD - GEM.  
**Mr. Y. Nath,** P.F.I.Mar.E., F.I.E.,  
Chartered Engineer, President, Planmain Quality Consultants ( India ) Pvt. Ltd.

**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, Sathya Sai Nagar, Madurai - 625 003.  
Published at "Lakshmi", 21, Sathya Sai Nagar, Madurai - 625 003, Tamilnadu.  
RNI No. TNENG/2012/41759.



## DG Shipping issuing New Maritime guidelines to weed out aging ships

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The Indian Government is tightening rules on aging ships sailing into its waters. The Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) of India is reportedly in the final stages of issuing new guidelines to deny port entry for multi-purpose vessels, tankers and bulkers that are older than 25 years.

For fully cellular container ships, the age ceiling has been proposed at 30 years, according to industry sources. Still, the new policy can cause some fleet challenges for coastal and feeder operators as most of the tonnage deployed



in such short-haul trades are older second-hand vessels. According to new provisional guidelines, Indian entities will not be able to register second-hand vessels of 20 years or more under the domestic flag.

This could mean a

sharp rise in charter rates for smaller second-hand tonnage, thus impacting feeder charges for transshipment movements that are critical for Indian exporters/importers in the absence of sufficient direct, origin-to-destination connections.

**“Quality tonnage is paramount for safe and secure expansion of the maritime sector and to achieve sustainability in Ocean Government,”** said DG Shipping. The authority also noted, “The safety of life at sea and ships depends on the quality of tonnage registered under the flag of the Country.”

The move comes amid growing marine safety and

environmental concerns. “The shipbreaking activity will see a spurt due to the new IMO carbon emission norms for ships, which came into force from 1 January 2023,” a Mumbai-based liner industry leader told.

He went on to explain, “Besides, modern larger-size vessels coming out of the yards will have a cascading effect down the line with the bottom of the rung older/smaller ships going for scrapping.”

New Delhi has been contemplating imposing strict conditions on aging ships, after a series of marine accidents along the Indian coast led to massive oil spills and operational

disruptions at major ports. The collision of the container ship MSC Chitra and breakbulk carrier Khalijia-3 in the main Mumbai harbor channel in August 2010 were some of the notable examples.

DG Shipping further said, “There is a need for review and to specify certain requirements to enable registration/operation of quality tonnage under the Indian flag.”

It added, “There is also a need to create a level playing field for Indian ships by applying the requirements for quality tonnage to foreign-flagged vessels calling Indian ports or Indian offshore facilities, for carrying Indian cargo or for providing services in Indian EEZ/offshore area.”

## Cargo ship sinks off Japanese coast 9 crew members yet to be traced

### MARINE NEWS

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Thirteen crew members were rescued and search is on for the nine missing from a cargo ship that sank off southwestern Japan during fierce winter winds, with planes and ships, including private vessels according to international media reports.

The vessel, the 6,651-tonne Hong Kong-registered “Jintian”, issued a distress call late on January 24th, the Japan Coast Guard said. Media reported a person on the ship said it was listing

and taking on water, and later reports said the 22 crew members - all Chinese or Myanmar nationals - had transferred to lifeboats.

**There was no immediate word on what caused the vessel, which was carrying lumber, to capsize.** A Coast Guard spokesperson said winds were strong at the time the distress signal was received. The Coast Guard immediately sought assistance from patrol ships and aircraft in the vicinity, the west of Nagasaki city. The ship sank.

The Coast Guard “is also seeking cooperation from

the Self-Defense Forces, South Korean Coast Guard, and vessels sailing near the waters,” Matsuno said at a regular news conference.

He said the five crew members who were rescued were all Chinese but had no further information on their condition. A Japan Coast Guard spokesperson said the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and the Korean Coast Guard rescued another eight members of the crew. The Coast Guard could not confirm reports the crew was in lifeboats.

Western parts of Japan



Thirteen crew rescued after ship sinks off Japan, search on for 9 missing

were battered by winter storms that brought freezing, windy conditions. The area where the ship sank is between Nagasaki

and South Korea’s Jeju Island, where hundreds of flights were cancelled on Tuesday because of harsh weather conditions.

## Former Lebanese PM faces homicide charge over Beirut port blast

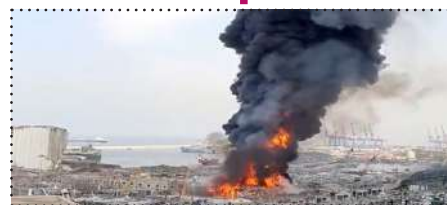
New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab has been charged with homicide with probable intent over the devastating Beirut port explosions in 2020 that killed at least 218 people.

Tarek Bitar, a Lebanese judge investigating the explosions, has

also charged Abbas Ibrahim, chief of Lebanese General Security, state security director Major General Tony Saliba, and former Lebanese army commander Jean Kahwaji. Bitar reopened the case this week after a year’s delay

**Primary investigations into the blast revealed that 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored at a decaying**



Beirut port explosions in 2020

warehouse in the port since 2014 caused the explosions, which injured 7,000 people, caused \$15bn in property damage, and

left an estimated 300,000 others homeless.

The deadly explosions were so massive that they were heard in Cyprus, some 240 km away. The blasts have been documented as the most powerful accidental artificial non-nuclear explosions in history.

Diab, an academic, became prime minister in January 2020 and resigned less than a week after the blast. He has previously been charged with negligence over the chemicals.

## CONTAINER TERMINAL NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

### DPA Kandla has created a new record by handling 6, 67,054 MT of cargo on a single day



DPA Kandla creates new record in handling cargo

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**D**eendayal Port (DPA, Kandla) has created a new record by handling 6,67,054 MT of cargo on 23-01-2023, which surpasses the previous record of single day handling of 6,65,387 MT that was achieved on 04-04-2021.

S. K. Mehta, IFS, Chairman and Shri Nandeesh Shukla, IRTS, Dy. Chairman congratulated the team of DPA on this achievement and greeted all the stakeholders, trade unions, port users, employees & workers for their continuous support.

### APM Terminals Pipavav promotes fitness and healthy lifestyle in surrounding villages through sports

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**A**PM Terminals Pipavav, one of India's most efficient ports organised inter village sports event with an aim to promote fitness and improve health among the youth of surrounding villages.

As part of company's 'Gyan Jyot Project', the annual event saw participation from over 500 students across the age group from the nearby villages like Rampara, Bherai, Shiyalbet, Padar, Thavi, Divalo, Devpara, Kadiyali, and Pipavav Dham. The students participated enthusiastically in various games like Kabbadi, Kho-Kho, Long & High Jump, 100- & 200-meter races and more.



APMT Pipavav encourages sport as a means for fit and healthy life

APM Terminals Pipavav provides a platform and eco system for overall development of the youngsters through various initiatives. It nurtures the healthy competition and sportsmanship by facilitating the youth to come together and compete in various competitions. Such events motivate the students not to just stay fit and healthy but also inspire them to choose sports as a career.

The port makes a positive impact on the community through various community development CSR projects in the area such as mobile science and maths lab, mobile health unit, 24x7 advance life support ambulance, mobile vet clinic, skill and entrepreneurship development institute, Uddan, Harit and Pravah to name a few.

## High level meeting on Infrastructure held

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

**U**nion Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari chaired the 10th meeting of Group of Infrastructure Committee on January 24th to address existing Inter-Ministerial issues with regard to implementation of various infrastructure projects.

**Shri Gadkari said an action plan has been introduced to accelerate Gati Shakti scheme's progress.**

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, Minister of state for Civil Aviation Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of state for power Krishan Pal Gurjar,

Minister of State for Port and Shipping and Minister of state for defense Ajay Bhatt participated in the meeting

Senior Officers from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of Railways, Ministry for Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Civil Aviation, National Highways Authority of India National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd and representatives from States attended the meeting.

Several issues were placed on the agenda for deliberation to expedite the progress of on-going infrastructure

## LOGISTIC NEWS



Shri Gadkari said an action plan has been introduced to accelerate Gati Shakti scheme's progress.

projects. These included of working permissions/ issues related to pending approvals, ensuring forest and environment land allocation/transfer clearances, facilitation and release of funds.

Discussions were also held on policy matters related to environment/forest/wildlife clearance, railways and power, among others. Environment Clearances and Land policies of Railways & MoRTH and making comprehensive guidelines for Environment and Forest clearance were also discussed at length. The concerned officers were directed to expedite the process of clearance and implementation of above matters. The stakeholder Ministries / Departments agreed to look into various issues raised and resolve the same in order to expedite infrastructure projects.

### "Sagar Sandesh-Maritime Tabloid English Weekly Thrice E-Paper"

Add - On Service for Regular Advertisers

- ❖ Publishing of Press Release / Interviews of Top level Management
- ❖ All Advertisement will be in Colour

For further assistance, write to us  
admin@sagarsandesh.in / admin@porttoport.in  
Contact us in : +91 99948 85497

## Cargo traffic at Major Ports rose 10.4 % in December (YoY)

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Cargo traffic at state-owned ports rose 10.4 per cent in December year-on-year (YoY), signaling a strong rebound in a year that has fared slower than expected.

Twelve Major Ports handled cargo of 69.5 million tonnes (mt) in December, which is the highest during the current fiscal year. The volume is also 8 mt higher than the traffic over the past three months, which had been stuck at 61 mt since September.

It is also the second-highest traffic volume handled by major ports in a month since the onset of Covid-19. Cumulatively,



Cargo traffic at state-owned ports rose 10.4 per cent in December year-on-year

traffic at major ports reached 576 mt by December, which is nearly 9 per cent higher than the previous fiscal year.

"The entire increase in volumes in December, Quarter and year can be explained by volumes of coal. However, container volumes have come under

stress," said Mohit Kumar, a researcher with DAM Capital, who attributes the current coal surge to geopolitical tensions.

Officials and experts suggest the current surge in coal cargo has also been aided by the increased use of the rail-sea-rail (RSR) mode for the domestic

transportation of thermal coal.

Sai Krishna, Vice-President and Sector Head at ICRA said, "Iron ore traffic saw a 42 per cent year-on-year growth in December. Since the removal of various export duties on the commodity in November, traffic which was earlier subdued has seen higher growth on account of pent-up inventory".

On a cumulative basis, iron ore traffic in FY23 is still 20 per cent less than last year, but experts expect these numbers to pick up further.

While thermal coal cargo is up 35 per cent in FY23, coking coal has seen a rise of 16 per cent.

According to experts, coking coal volumes

may have seen growth on account of increased iron ore production, as the commodity is used to produce steel.

Container cargo continues to see subdued volumes because of slow international trade. Krishna said high container rates in the first half of the fiscal year had caused container volumes to move towards bulk break cargo, which may improve going forward. So far in FY23, 124 mt of containers have been moved through major ports, which is hardly 1 per cent higher than the previous year.

**If the momentum of December continues, traffic growth may remain upwards of 8 per cent by the end of the financial year, experts said.**

## Pakistan Govt waives handling charges for containers stuck at Karachi Port

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

In a bid to maintain the supply chain in foreign exchange starved Pakistan Karachi Port authorities have waived all charges for containers stuck at the port for about a fortnight, the Federal minister for Maritime affairs Faisal Sabzwari was quoted by the Pakistani media reports

The Minister said that the government deliberated on the issue of containers stuck at ports and has been discussing the matter with

stakeholders for the last several days.

**He stressed that shipping lines are not closing their operations in the country and asserted that Pakistan would not go bankrupt.**

To solve shipping lines' problems, containers are being moved to other places free of cost. The situation had made the business community restless after a shortage of dollars delayed the settlement of letters of credit for these containers.

**An estimated 8,000 containers are stuck at the ports.**



The Federal minister for Maritime affairs Faisal Sabzwari

## MARINE NEWS

### MSC, Evergreen Head Scrubber-Fitted Fleet Ranking

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

MSC, the world's largest container shipping company, was the "scrubber champion" for 2022, as the Swiss/Italian box line ended the year with the largest number of scrubber-fitted vessels, according to DynaLiners report.

**In particular, 216 boxships of MSC are equipped with scrubbers, translating to an overall capacity of 2,132,700 TEUs.**

Additionally, one of Taiwan's major ocean carriers, Evergreen has achieved the biggest scrubber-fitted fleet as a proportion of its total fleet. Evergreen's 150 scrubber-fitted vessels constitute 72% of the company's overall fleet.

On the other hand, DynaLiners notes that



MSC scrubber champion for 2022

Maersk and CMA CGM reported quite low scores, as the two container giants have been focussing on using alternative fuels.

Overall, at the end of last year, the ten carriers with the biggest scrubber-fitted fleets in terms of the number

of vessels operated 778 ships, in which this exhaust gas cleaning device was installed. This was equivalent to 23% of their total number of ships, while by capacity this was 7.98 million TEUs representing 35% of their total box capacity.

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

**Around three tons of cocaine seized from cargo ship in Sahara, all crews arrested**

Around three tons of cocaine were found in the 2005-built .....



## PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

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

# India-built New International Sittwe Port to be opened soon

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**S**ittwe Port, built by the Indian Government in Sittwe Rakhine State, will be designated as an international port and opened soon, the Rakhine State Government said.

The port is a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which will be important in the trade sector between Myanmar and India. Now that all the construction work has been completed,



The new Sittwe Port started construction in 2009 funded by India, and will be leased by the Indian Government for 30 years under the BTO system

the opening ceremony of the port will be held soon.

However the exact date of the opening ceremony has not yet been determined REIC Rakhine Economic Initiative Public Co., Ltd Vice President U Khin Maung Gyi, a renowned Rakhine businessman, commented.

India's Cabinet Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal also confirmed that Sittwe Port is ready for practical use, India's NDTV News broadcasted recently.

When Sittwe Port is opened, there will be direct trade between India and Rakhine State, so it will be beneficial not only for Rakhine State but also for the economy of Myanmar, REIC Rakhine Economic Initiative Public Co., Ltd Vice President U Khin Maung Gyi, a renowned Rakhine businessman, commented.

The port is a part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which will facilitate the trade sector between Myanmar and India.

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**N**ew Delhi/Guwahati/Kandla, 23 January, 2023: The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal today unveiled a slew of initiatives to ramp up capacity at Kandla port - one of India's major ports. With an estimated investment of ₹280 crores, the initiatives will boost capacity at the Kandla port of Deendayal Port Authority.

The Union Minister inaugurated the Oil Jetty No. 7 at Old Kandla which was built with an investment of ₹ 73.92 crores. This jetty, with a capacity of 2 MMTPA, will enhance the liquid handling capacity of mainly edible oil to satiate the projected requirements. With an augmented capacity to handle cargo, it will bring down the waiting time (pre-berthing detention time) of vessels and other related assets.

Sarbananda Sonowal also laid down foundation stones for development of Back Up Area of Oil Jetty No 8 to 10 - with an estimated investment of ₹98.41 crores; development of four lane Road common Corridor From LC-236 B to 16th Cargo Berth along Railway Line - with an estimated investment cost of ₹ 67 crores as well as construction of Dome

## Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal unveils major initiatives worth ₹ 280 crores for upgradation of Kandla Port



The Union Minister Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Oil Jetty No. 7

Shaped Storage Shed inside CJ area Phase II - with an estimated investment cost of ₹39.66 crores. All these projects are scheduled to be completed by 2024.

With the inauguration of the jetty, more number of ships will now be accommodated as improved turnaround time will benefit both shipping companies as well as port users. The jetty is T-shaped Jetty with Length of 110 m and Breadth of 12.40 m which can handle the large size of vessel upto 65000 DWT and 13 m depth. This project has led to an indirect employment of around 1000 plus and direct employment of around 250 plus employment opportunities, during the construction phase.

The event was also attended by the Union Minister of State for

Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Tourism, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik; the Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur; the Member of Parliament (MP) of Kachchh Shri Vinodbhai Chavda and the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Gandhidham; Shri Maltiben Maheswarialong with top officials & employees of Deendayal Port Authority; the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and other distinguished guest.

Deendayal Port Authority is the largest liquid handling port in the country. It handles all kinds of liquid bulk i.e. petroleum products, petrochemicals, acids, liquefied gases and vegetable oils. Keeping the future vision and port



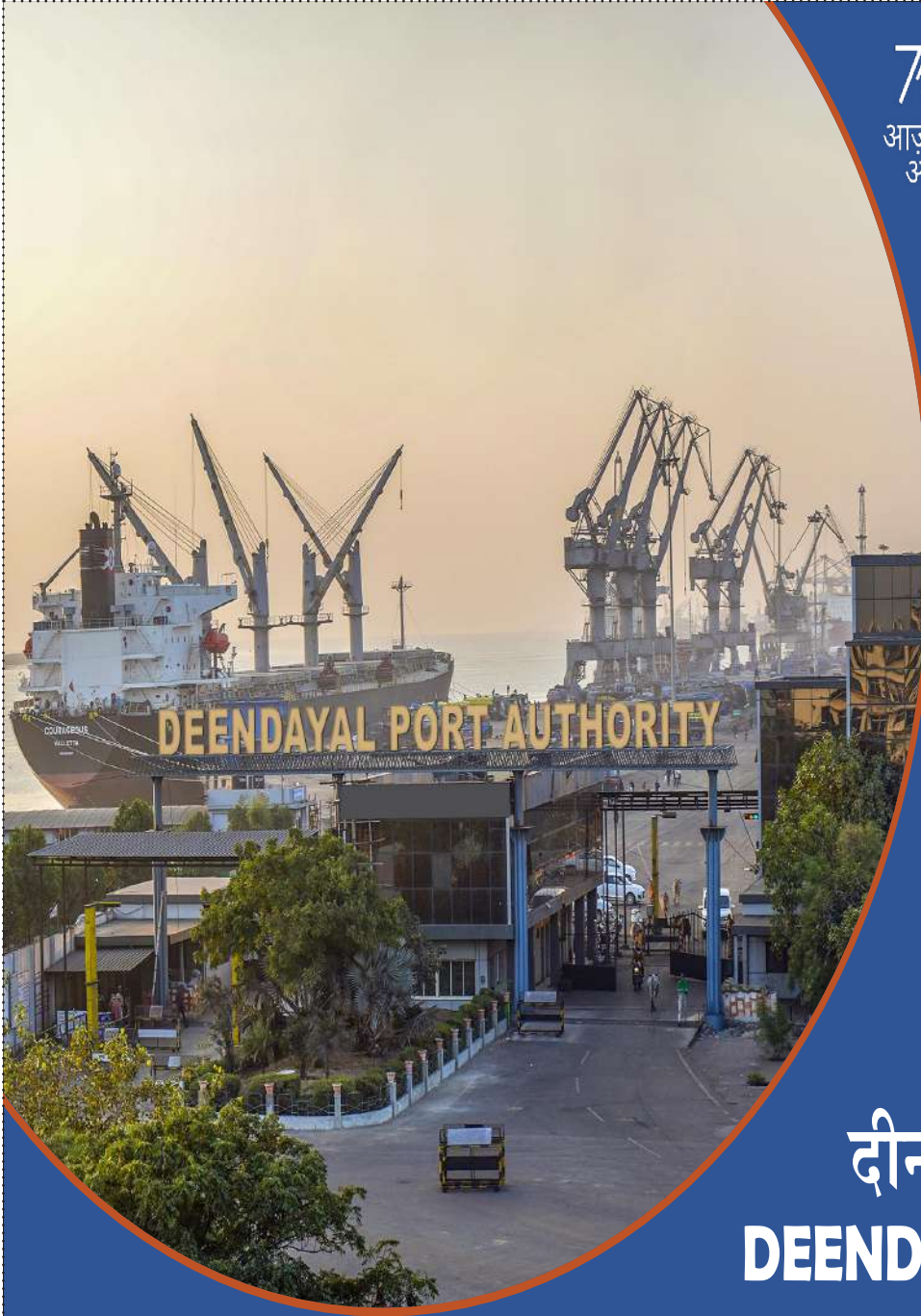
Delegates who had attended the event

expansion as well as per the demand of Port Users, DPA has initiated the action for development of land parcel of 554 Acres (225 Ha), in the associated Oil Jetty No. 8 to 11. The land parcel of 554 Acres will be utilized for Tank farm development with the Tentative Tankage Capacity of 2.28 million KL. The proposed back-up area will be connected to the Oil Jetties, the piperacks from the jetties will be capable feeding into both the tank farms.

A separate common corridor/Road from LC-236B (New ROB) to 16th CB along railway line will be built for smooth cargo operation of Port and accommodating the existing and up-coming traffic of Cargo berth No. 11 to 17. Phase I of the

work is to expected to be completed in 18 months with an estimated cost of Rs.67.00 Cr. The proposed work comprises of Four lane Road having length of 6.5 km with flexible pavement. The dome shaped storage shed has 04 nos. godowns of total 24,000 M2 area with storage capacity of 1.05 lakhs M.T. to be constructed in Phase-II. These 4 godowns of size 200m X 30m to be constructed in place of G-22 & G-23. This proposed godowns are self-supported roofing system type without any intermediate supporting structure between roof & floor, resulting more working height for cargo handling, suitable for bulk cargo through hydraulic system.





75  
आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव



दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण, कंडला  
**DEENDAYAL PORT AUTHORITY, KANDLA**  
(INDIA'S NO. 1 MAJOR PORT)

सभी महापत्तनों के बीच लगातार 15वें वर्ष  
नंबर 1 का स्थान बरकरार



Retained No. 1 position amongst all  
Major Ports for the 15<sup>th</sup> Year in a row



## TRADE BODY NEWS



"Worrying will never change the outcome"

## Baltic index hits fresh 2-1/2-year low as larger vessel rates slip

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The Baltic Exchange's main sea freight index extended losses to a sixth straight session on Tuesday 24 Jan to touch a fresh 2-1/2-year low, dragged down by a dip in capesize and panamax rates.

**The overall index, which factors in rates for capesize, panamax and supramax shipping vessels, fell**



The overall index fell 19 points, or about 2.6%, to 721, its lowest since early-June 2020.

**19 points, or about 2.6%, to 721, its lowest since early-June 2020.**

The capesize index (.BACI) lost 50 points, or 6.8%, to 685, its lowest since mid-September 2022.

Average daily earnings for capesizes (.BATCA), which typically transport 150,000-tonne cargoes such as iron ore and coal, were down \$410 at \$5,684.

**The panamax index**

**(.BPNI) was down 13 points, or about 1.2%, at 1,035, also a more than two-year low.**

Average daily earnings for panamaxes (.BPWT), which usually carry coal or grain cargoes of about 60,000 tonnes to 70,000 tonnes, fell by \$115 to \$9,313.

Among smaller vessels, the supramax index (.BSIS) snapped its more than a month long losing streak, gaining four points to 649.

## Strategic significance of Bangladesh ports

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The two sea ports of Bangladesh Chattogram and Mongla can assist the landlocked Himalayan countries of Nepal and Bhutan besides North Eastern states of India by providing them access to the sea through them and have since assumed strategic significance.

The maze of waterways on which both ports are built forms an integral part of a Multi Modal network that links Bangladesh to



Mongla port

the hinterland, a contiguous zone of neighboring countries including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar

and Thailand, according to a paper brought out by a think tank.

**The Chattogram**

## PORT NEWS

Port can also engage with the Sittwe Port in Myanmar, given its physical proximity to the country, and further with the Yangon Port in Thailand. Bangladesh's seaports are important Maritime gateways for the neighboring countries, especially those landlocked, with potential to boost their EXIM trade

This also converges with the countries' interest in strengthening cooperation—bilaterally and through the Bay of

Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)—in the Bay region following the strategic resurgence of this maritime space. Indeed, Bangladesh's seaports have the potential to increase trade and connectivity in six of the seven BIMSTEC member countries.

The seaports of Chattogram and Mongla are built on riverbanks but they are referred to as seaports because they are located a few kilometers upstream from the Bay of Bengal.

## Amazon to provide air cargo service to 4 cities in India

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Online shopping giant Amazon has started offering its cargo service in four cities of Delhi Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad in an effort to speed up delivery and make services more convenient for its customers.

**Two specifically designed cargo aircraft with a carrying capacity of 20,000 items will be used by the cargo service- Amazon Air.**

After the United States and Europe, India has become the third market that is covered by Amazon Air. The dedicated freight

service was originally introduced in the US in 2016.

Over 110 freight aircraft of the Amazon Air Fleet are currently operational across more than 70 international locations. A Boeing 737-800 aircraft, flown by Bengaluru-based Quikjet Cargo Airlines, will be used for Amazon Air service in India initially. New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad will be the first four cities to be covered.

The company claims that because it now has two dedicated freight planes under its control and won't have to totally depend on the cargo services of airlines, it can be more flexible with

cargo shipments.

While Amazon claimed that this would speed up deliveries and make the company more profitable, it did not make it clear by how much. Customers will be able to order things a little later in the evening and still count on next-day delivery, according to the statement on the Air cargo service.

Since Amazon has more than five million Amazon Prime subscribers and India is one of the company's largest and fastest-growing international markets, the newest expansion of its services in the country seems like the next logical step. The business has



Interestingly, even though the service is known as Amazon Air, the planes continue to bear the Prime Air insignia

already invested 6.5 billion US dollars in India. The Amazon Air service has been introduced in four metros as Indian metro customers are known to be persistent and frequently make repeat purchases.

**Interestingly, even though the service is known as Amazon Air, the planes continue to bear**

**the Prime Air insignia.** Incorporated in 2022, Prime Air manages drone delivery services and operates in Texas and California in the US. Amazon Air will initially only be used for Amazon's own deliveries, unlike Amazon's logistics service, which is available to other e-commerce businesses.



# DP World Logistics Takes Delivery of Three 40-Tonne E-Trucks



40 tonne E-trucks

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

**D**P World Logistics has received three 40-tonne E-trucks and became one of the first firms in Germany to provide zero-emission door delivery using such heavy-duty E-trucks.

**In this way, DP World Logistics said it can meet customers' increasing**

**demand for sustainable logistics solutions.**

The DP World E-trucks will be powered by renewable electricity and will have a range of up to 400 kilometres.

**"They are ideally suited for emission-free and low-noise deliveries in and around the regions**

of Baden Württemberg and Rheinland Pfalz but will initially be deployed in the Stuttgart and Black Forrest areas," said DP World Logistics in a statement.

DP World aims to reduce carbon emissions from its activities by roughly 700,000 tonnes over the next five years including

the usage of E-trucks. Through electrifying assets, investing in renewable energy, and researching alternate fuels, the decrease represents a 20% drop from 2021 levels.

In a long term, **DPWorld wants to be a carbon-neutral company by 2040**, with a defined plan to reach net zero carbon emissions throughout its entire global network by 2050.

# 12 years have passed and yet work is yet to resume on Chennai Maduravoyal corridor

CHENNAI  
Sagar Sandesh News Bureau

**W**ith work on the much delayed Chennai Port Maduravoyal Elevated corridor yet to resume and put on cold storage for the past Eleven years, the National Highways Authority keeps on claiming fast tracking of the project and scheduled the completion on 2024.

**Work on the project to relieve the congestion for container terminals in Chennai port has remained suspended since 2011** for one reason or other. Tamil Nadu government which had initially put obstacles to the project, has since given the go ahead to NHAI way back in 2016. Several deadlines have passed during the last 7 years but there is no indication when the work on the crucial connectivity project will resume. Several central government agencies like Navy and the Railways have put obstacles to the resumption of the project. Work is yet to resume.

Current indications are that the work on the project would resume by the middle of this year. It is in this context industry sources view

the Highways minister Nitin Gadkari's repeated assertion that the project would be commissioned by 2024. Industry estimated that it would take at least 3 more years for the completion of project provided there are no further obstacles by the central government agencies.

The official release however claims that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has fast-tracked the ambitious elevated corridor project between Chennai Port and Maduravoyal, which is expected to involve an investment of Rs 5,855 crore.

**The 20.6-km long, four-lane double-decker elevated expressway is being constructed under the Gati Shakti program.** The Union Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, stated that the project will be developed in four sections and will start inside the Chennai Port and end after the Maduravoyal interchange. It is expected to be completed by December 2024.

With NHAI dragging its feet on the project the container terminals in Chennai port are working at 50 per cent of the capacity for the past

several years due to evacuation issues. **Many container liner vessels have moved out of**

**Chennai port due to congestion. But the shipping ministry is yet to act to ensure that work resumes.**



Chennai - Maduravoyal corridor delayed for years

## VESSEL SCHEDULES

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



WEST COAST	
AMCT	- Adani Mundra Container Terminal
AICTPL	- Adani International Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd.
MICT	- Mundra International Container Terminal
ACMTPL	- Adani CMA Mundra Terminal Pvt. Ltd.
KICT	- Kandla International Container Terminal
NSICT	- 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

# 25 per cent of Apple's I phone turn over will be from India



Apple shipped 1.9 million I Phones in October-December quarter and is the sixth leading smart phone vendor in India.

GANDHI NAGAR  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

I Phone maker Apple is planning to expand its

manufacturing in India from the current 5 to 7 per cent to 25 per cent of its total production, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said.

"They are already at 5 to 7 per cent of their manufacturing in India. If I am not mistaken, they are targeting to go up to 25 per cent of their manufacturing in India," Mr. Goyal said at the Inception Meeting of Business 20 (B20), the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community in Gandhi Nagar.

Amid Covid outbreak in

China, the Cupertino-based company, with a market cap of 2.18 trillion US dollars, is looking to increase its manufacturing in India.

On 6 November, Apple announced that the supply of I Phones 14 Pro and I Phone Pro Max models will remain subdued owing to tighter Covid policy in China's Zhengzhou, which houses the world's largest I Phone manufacturing facility in the world run by Foxconn. Apple has three contract manufacturers in India - Foxconn Hon

Hai, Pegatron in Tamil Nadu and Wistron in Karnataka.

Foxconn, started manufacturing the latest iPhone 14 series in India in September, last year, apparently the same month, it was launched worldwide. Meanwhile, production of I Phone 13 kicked off six months after its global launch. As per reports, Foxconn is also mulling to quadruple the workforce at its Indian I Phone factory near Chennai over a period of two years. Besides this, Pegatron's unit in Chennai also began making I Phones

in India in the month of November.

All the three Apple manufacturers have been chosen for cash incentives under the government's Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. As per reports, Apple shipped 1.9 million I Phones in October-December quarter and is the sixth leading smart phone vendor in India.

Foxconn has started manufacturing the latest I Phone 14 series in India in September, last year, the same month it was launched worldwide. Meanwhile, production of I Phone 13 kicked off six months after its global launch.

## 'We are a 24-hour government available to our business community'

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

In 2022, India managed to seal two major free trade agreements, one with Australia and the other with the UAE, increasing the probability of some more being finalised in 2023. In an interaction with businessline, Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal discusses the trade landscape for 2023 and the importance of FTAs. Excerpts:

**Can exporters expect some handholding from the government in these difficult times when world trade growth is shrinking?**

As issues get flagged off, the government does its inter-ministerial consultation and, wherever



Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister

possible, takes proactive measures to support Indian industry. So we are a 24 hour government available to our business community, particularly the exporters for any problem that they may face...

**The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes are all recent.** All are in the phase of being developed. But some have also started enjoying the fruits. Bluestar MD Vir Advani just came and said his company was one of the first to start air conditioning facility unit under PLI for white goods and they are already exporting.

**How does India plan to resolve the tough issues it faces in its FTA negotiations with the UK? Is an early harvest pact still being considered?**

Our approach (in the India-UK FTA) is to focus on what is acceptable to both countries and not allow the sensitive issues to scuttle our discussions...

**How soon can the FTA with Canada be finalised?**

**Wasn't the proposed deadline December 2022?**

We have never had any deadlines. Those could be estimates. But there are a lot of issues in the ministerial consultations. Please bear in mind Australia, UAE both are non-manufacturing countries. They don't have a big manufacturing base. So the businesses complement each other. Whereas with Canada, while they are also not much of a manufacturing base, with them we have to go into more details.

The UK is a country manufacturing many products. So we have to do it very carefully. Every item has to be seen with great detail.

**How are the FTA talks with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) progressing?**

Unfortunately, the term of the GCC's Secretary General is over and the new one has not yet been appointed. Once he comes in, we will have to finalise a few elements of the terms of reference (ToR).

## SHIPPING NEWS

### Number of CNG-Powered Boats Will Rise To 2000 from 580 in Varanasi



Boat in Varanasi

New Delhi  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The number of CNG-powered boats in Varanasi will rise to 2000, oil minister Hardeep Puri said. Boatmen in Varanasi are also experimenting with battery-powered boats.

As many as 580 boats run on compressed natural gas (CNG) in the Ganga river in Varanasi as Gail has laid city gas infrastructure in the city.

**The number of CNG-powered boats in Varanasi will rise to 2000,**

**oil minister Hardeep Puri said, without giving a timeline.**

Boats driven by CNG will help cut air pollution in the city while also increasing the income of boatmen, he added.

**Boatmen in Varanasi are also experimenting with battery-powered boats.**

India is working on increasing the consumption of natural gas in transport. It aims to raise the share of gas in the primary energy mix from 6.3 per cent now to 15 per cent by 2030.