



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 | Monday, February 13, 2023 | Voyage 11 Wave 157

Published & Released on Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday



PAGE - 4

Cochin Shipyard Ltd Launches Job-Oriented Training for ITI Holders



PAGE - 5

Centre to fund Rs 20 crore for RO-RO jetty in port town



PAGE - 8

Adani Gangavaram Port inducts a new loco at the port



PAGE - 12

India's defence exports worth nearly Rs 1 lakh cr now: PM Modi in Rajya Sabha



MAERSK

Maersk's integrated logistics arm is hoping to improve its inventory management system by outsourcing the tedious job of checking pallet locations - to a robot. Partnering with Swiss startup Verity, Maersk is trying out a drone device that flies around the warehouse and scans every pallet in sight.

Verity's small drone carries high-resolution cameras, and it flies from one pallet to the next, cataloging identity and location. Traffic avoidance and interaction with human workers are non-issues because it works after everyone has gone home, even in the dark. It takes photos of SKUs and passes the data back to Verity's cloud-based processing system, which compares what the drone

Maersk Tests Out Flying Drone for Managing Inventory

"sees" to what is recorded in the warehouse management system. Inventory errors like missing or misplaced goods get flagged for the warehouse's managers.

Maersk's Performance Team division installed the drone system at its Miami warehouse first, and the results and ROI are good enough that Maersk is planning a U.S.-wide rollout for locations with pallet racks.

High-quality, up-to-date inventory data is a big value-added for shippers, according to Maersk. Manual counting is dull and dangerous work since it requires workers to examine goods stored at height. It takes time, and it usually contains some amount of human error. For distributors and retailers, knowing the exact quantities of goods in stock is key information.

Labor shortages in the U.S. have also encouraged uptake for automating inventory checks and other warehouse tasks, according to supply chain analysts. "Many of our customers' shipping volumes have been growing year over year,

but the population isn't growing, so lack of labor is an existential threat to these businesses and is the No. 1, 2, and 3 factors leading to an interest in warehouse automation," said Chris Geyer, VP at robotics company Berkshire Grey, in a recent interview with Supply and Demand Chain Executive.

For Verity and Maersk, the next thing to add is a way to check the

barcodes on individual boxes on a pallet. "Today, there is no solution that can really cover all the boxes that sit on the pallet," said Erez Agmoni, SVP for innovation for Maersk North America, in a webinar last September. "There are a few ideas that we are entertaining [with Verity], and hopefully that will make it even more successful for us."

The human touch

Keeping it real

Our operational expertise is gained from over 35 years of answering the call for quality shipping and logistics services globally. We see every client as an individual and every job as unique - and we respond with quality, expertise, compliance as well as respect for you and the environment.

gac.com/india



GAC Shipping (India) Pvt. Ltd.

E: pricing.india@gac.com

T: +91 8369744069

[fb.com/GACgroup](https://www.facebook.com/GACgroup)

[linkedin.com/company/gac-group](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gac-group)



Delivering your strategy.

No animals were harmed in the making of this advertisement.



Drone delivery could yield substantial cost savings on the shipment of everything from mail, to medicine to spare parts. **WSJ**

ELEGANT
MARINE SERVICES



Fleet Management Limited
A Caravel Group Company



Join our 24,000 strong
team who knows only
one way, the way
ahead.

AVAILABLE ROLES

Chemical and Oil Tankers, VLGC & LNG Carriers (DFDE)

- Master
- Chief Officer
- Second Officer
- Third Officer
- Chief Engineer
- Third Engineer
- Fourth Engineer
- Electrical Officer with COC
- Second Engineer (previous ME engine and RT Flex engine experience required)
- Require Senior Officers/Engineers with Basic and Advanced IGF COP for our vessels

Bulk Carriers and ULCC Vessels of 14.000+ TEU

- Master
- Chief Officer
- Second Officer
- Third Officer
- Chief Engineer
- Second Engineer
- Third Engineer
- Fourth Engineer
- Electrical Officer with COC

Ratings

- Able Seaman with COP
- Motorman with COP
- Chief Cook with MLC COC
- Pumpman - Fitter

As an equal opportunity employer, we welcome and consider applications from all qualified candidates.

APPLY NOW

E-mail: seacareer@elegantship.com

Call us:

Mumbai	: +91 22 3090 6100	Kochi	: +91 484 4063666	Patna	: +91 612 2206788	Vizag	: +91 891 2749775
Chandigarh	: +91 172 4167201	Jaipur	: +91 141 4005091	Kolkata	: +91 33 40566100		
Delhi	: +91 124 4690400	Chennai	: +91 44 22504730	Lucknow	: +91 522 4024685		

Know more: www.fleetship.com

ELEGANT MARINE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED

401/A, Elegant Business Park, Off Andheri Kuria Road,
Near Kohinoor Continental Hotel, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 059

MARINE NEWS



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

Maersk expects 2023 profits to plummet as volumes, freight rates fall



Maersk expects 2023 profits to plummet

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Shipping group A.P. Moller - Maersk MAERSKb.CO on Wednesday 8 Feb reported fourth-quarter earnings slightly below expectations and forecast a 2023 core profit significantly below last year's as volumes and freight rates fall.

The company said in a statement it expected underlying earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) between \$8 billion and \$11 billion this year,

compared with \$36.8 billion last year.

"Guidance for 2023 is based on the expectation that inventory correction will be complete by the end of the first half leading to a more balanced demand environment," it said.

Underlying EBITDA stood at \$6.52 billion in the fourth quarter compared with \$7.99 billion a year ago and a 6.95 billion forecast by analysts in a poll gathered by the company.

Revenues fell slightly to \$17.8 billion in the period as the number of containers it loaded on to ships fell by 14%.

Coast guard and Assam rifles conduct joint working group meeting

CHENNAI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Assam Rifles and the Indian Coast Guard conducted a 4th Joint Working Group meeting onboard ICGS Shaurya on February 09 at Chennai to foster greater

understanding and bond between the two forces.

The Affiliation charter was signed between 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion of Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard on May 22 2019 towards understanding of operational ethos,

sharing of best practices from each other, building camaraderie and utilizing each other's assets for operation, training, sports and adventure.

Colonel Sachin Nimbalkar, Veer Chakra, Colonel General Staff (Operation) Chairman JWG (ASSAM RIFLES) and DIG RK Sinha, Director (Personnel) Chairman JWG (Indian Coast Guard) represented respective forces at the meeting along with the host of officers from both forces.

Multiple agenda points were discussed and brief insight of Assam Rifles functioning and Coast Guard ships capabilities and state of art technology, including bridge integration system were highlighted during the JWG meeting.



Royal Caribbean names Maersk veteran as head of marine

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Royal Caribbean Group (NYSE: RCL) has named Palle Laursen as executive vice president, head of marine, effective May 1, 2023.

Laursen will report to Royal Caribbean Group's president and CEO, Jason Liberty, and will join the company's executive committee.

With this newly created position, the company will centralize its global and brand marine operations functions under Laursen. He will oversee all marine operations for the company's entire fleet, as well as strategic oversight of the marine operations of TUI Cruises and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, in which Royal Caribbean is a 50% joint-venture owner.

Most recently, Laursen served as chief fleet and



Palle Laursen comes to Royal Caribbean after a long career with Maersk

technical officer at A.P. Moller - Maersk and was responsible for its entire fleet of more than 750 container vessels, 400 chartered vessels and 350 owned vessels as well as chartering, technical management, crew management, safety and compliance, newbuilding activities and engineering services. He also led Maersk's effort to have the entire fleet operating fully carbon neutral by 2040.

Having joined the

Maersk Group in early 1998, Laursen has spent his entire professional career at the Danish shipping giant. Previously, he was vice president and head of ship management and also held several other roles with increasing responsibilities, including head of technical services, ship engineering and technical vessel operations.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Palle Laursen to the Royal Caribbean Group," said Jason Liberty, president and CEO, Royal Caribbean Group

"This is an exciting time for the Royal Caribbean Group, and I very much look forward to helping the company deliver the best vacations in the world, responsibly," said Palle Laursen

Laursen graduated from the Svendborg International Maritime Academy (SIMAC) in Denmark as a marine engineer and has since completed several executive and leadership development programs.



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**
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- Seearland 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, PFI.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 (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.

MARINE NEWS



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

Cochin Shipyard Ltd Launches Job-Oriented Training for ITI Holders

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has begun training of 200 ITI holders in association with Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) Kerala with a placement option for successful candidates.

The students will undergo training in marine structural fitter trade.

This is the first time CSL is implementing such a scheme to train and provide job opportunities to skilled professionals. **"The students will be enrolled as apprentices, and they will undergo**

three months' training. After this, they will get hands on experience at the shipbuilding facility for nine months to enhance their skills and competency. Post evaluation of the performance during the course successful candidates will be offered employment on a contract basis," officials with the CSL said.

The initiative comes under the National Skill India Mission launched by the Government of India. Through the Mission, the government is actively implementing various training programmes for the youth to develop



Cochin Shipyard

skilled manpower to ensure national growth in a planned manner. To support the skill India mission activities Cochin Shipyard joined hands with ASAP Kerala to train youngsters in the state.

An MoU was signed in this regard on April 29, 2022 to provide skill training to the youths of Kerala in the area of ship building and ship repair/

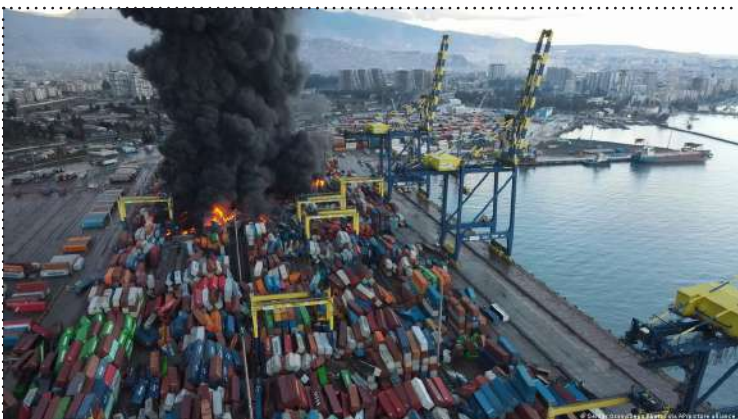
marine engineering. Focusing on the exclusive skills and competency required to support the mainstream activity of the yard, CSL and ASAP Kerala formulated 'Marine Structural Fitter', a distinct trade.

Curriculum for the above trade has thus been planned as an add-on package to the students who have already completed

their courses on trades like fitter, welder, sheet metal worker and marine fitter under the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT). Post deliberations between the academia (ASAP) and the industry experts (CSL), a curriculum for the course was formulated which predominantly anchored on the need of practical and on the job training in addition to the technical theory sessions included on the training modules.

Marine structural fitter thus planned is for a period of five months with the curriculum set to cover 600 plus hours, to be imparted in two phases jointly under the initiative of ASAP and CSL. For details of the course, contact: 0484-2501437.

Iskenderun Port Fire to Cause Trade Loss of Around US\$680 Million



The container fire at the Port of Iskenderun in Turkey

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

According to Russell Group, a data and

analytics company, the container fire at the Port of Iskenderun in Turkey, caused by the heavy earthquake, can generate US\$680 million of trade disruption.

The analysis says the accident is projected to interrupt US\$36.7 million in iron and steel exports and US\$51.4 million in plastic materials imports.

The port shut operations

on 6 February and remains closed until today (9 February), while several shipping lines have postponed the transportation of cargo at the port or diverted goods to Mersin, one of the Turkish ports nearby.

According to Russell's study, Iskenderun is one of two main shipping container ports on Turkey's south-eastern coastlines and is home to heavy industries such as steel, with an annual trade flow of US\$18 billion in 2022.

The research was based on modelling from 6

February to 28 February 2023 and examined the operations of major shipping firms, who are giving free cancellations, modifications, and destination changes on all cargo travelling to Iskenderun during the current month.

"The Iskenderun incident highlights a reoccurring issue in global trade, whereby a single point of failure – such as a port closure – can have ripple events across supply chains," stated Suki Basi, Russell Group managing director.



Gold

RAMESHWARAM
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Gold dumped into the sea off Rameshwaram coast

18 kg of gold worth over Rs 10.5 crore dumped in the sea off Mandapam in Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram coast, officials said on February 9th.

The consignment was being smuggled from Sri Lanka.

DRI officials alerted a Coast Guard team based on a tip-off that large

amount of gold is expected to be smuggled in a boat through Mandapam by sea. According to sources, the officials intercepted the boat and found that its crew had thrown something into the sea.

Three crew members of the boat were interrogated after being taken to Ramanathuparam and scuba divers were

brought from Thoothukudi to recover the items dumped into the sea.

Five scuba divers, who were employed to identify the objects, conducted searches since Wednesday 8 Feb and recovered a bag containing gold on Thursday. Later on, the DRI officials found that the bag contained 17.74 kg gold.

"The team maintained

surveillance in Gulf of Mannar for two days for any suspicious activity. On the night of Feb 8, the IB boarded a suspicious boat which was trying to escape at high speed to evade interception.

On rummaging the boat, suspected contraband was not found and **it was suspected that the same was thrown overboard during interception,**" a Defense release said.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Indian Coast Guard recovered around



Carriers Piled up with Massive Container Surplus

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Weak consumer demand and consequent easing of supply chain congestion has resulted in an expensive post-boom hangover for ocean carriers, as their equipment storage costs soar at the same time as their freight revenues plummet.

According to Drewry's latest Container Equipment Forecaster report, the global container equipment fleet grew 2% last year, to 50.9m teu, but the consultant expects a contraction of 3% this year.

It says operators will urgently seek to off-hire as many leased containers as possible, while retiring as



A "large part" of the 5m teu overhang will have been removed by the year end says Drewry's senior analyst

much of their elderly own equipment as they can.

Drewry's senior analyst for container equipment, John Fossey, said he expected "many thousands" of leased boxes to be returned to leasing companies this year and that, in combination with sales to secondary markets

for storage and other uses, a "large part" of the 5m teu overhang will have been removed by the year end.

Indeed, the world's largest container lessor, Triton, with a fleet of 7.1m teu, reported an "increase in drop-offs" in the third quarter of last year after "a

muted peak season", and that no doubt would have accelerated in Q4 and in the first quarter of this year.

The second-biggest container equipment lessor, Textainer, also reported "demand decreased significantly" in Q3.

Nevertheless, the leasing companies successfully locked carriers into long-term contracts and extensions of agreements during the equipment crunch periods of 2021 and first half of 2022, so the lines may not be able to return all their surplus equipment without incurring substantial penalties.

However, carriers could decide to pay one-off early-return penalties rather than incur continuing storage charges for equipment they have no bookings for.

The cash-rich carriers began to move away from equipment hire last year, with the lessors' share of the global container fleet slipping from a controlling 51.2% in 2021, to 49.4%.

However, Drewry expects their share to start to recover as ocean carriers move back towards reducing their capex spend as purse strings tighten.

Meanwhile, the equipment surplus has seen the cost of a new standard 40ft high-cube container made in China plummet from about \$6,500 at the peak of demand, to less than \$3,000.

And second-hand box prices have also slumped, good quality used 20ft containers for storage purposes now widely available in North Europe for \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Centre to fund Rs 20 crore for RO-RO jetty in port town

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The Central government's project to encourage RO-RO and RO-PAX ferry service in the port town of Goa is set to be built at a whopping Rs 21 crore. The passenger jetty at Vasco Bay-Mormugao Port is among 42 places in the coastal states of India selected under the Sagarmala project for development to boost inland tourism.



Ro-Ro jetty

Replying to an unstarred Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, question on Tuesday, 7 Feb,

Sarbananda Sonowal informed the Rajya Sabha that the government has already proposed to develop the ferry services to connect tourist potential places along the western coast from Kanyakumari to Goa to enhance tourism and ease traffic flow on coastal roads.

MPA will be the implementing agency for the project. While Goa has just one jetty under the Central scheme, Maharashtra will get the maximum number of RO-RO and RO-PAX jetties followed by Odisha,

Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Given the 'success of these projects, high demand and potential,' the Central government has mid last year planned additional projects at close to 30 places in Maharashtra; four projects in Andhra Pradesh, two projects in Odisha and one each in Tamil Nadu and Goa, etc.

In 2021's Maritime India Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced plans to introduce urban water transport systems in Gujarat, Goa, Kerala and Maharashtra.

LOGISTIC NEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Union Finance Secretary TV Somanathan expressed concern over "irregularities" taking place in hospitals, such as overcharging, treating people more than necessary, prescribing tests that are not necessary, and submitting false claims to insurance companies.

Finance Secretary unhappy with irregularities in hospitals

Agreeing with a point raised by Satyajit Tripathy, Chairman and Managing Director of United India Insurance, about hospital frauds, Somanathan said, "I call upon industries bodies like CII and FICCI, who keep coming to us on the importance of health

insurance, to introspect on what (some) hospitals are doing."

He observed that many hospitals were among the members of CII and FICCI.

At the 'Breakfast with *businessline*, Tripathy



Union Finance Secretary TV Somanathan: "it is a valid point."

made point that while "all kinds of services are

regulated, hospitals are not".

Somanathan responded saying, "it is a valid point".

Health insurance companies (such as the public sector United India Insurance) were facing big challenges because hospitals are not regulated, said Tripathy, noting that health insurance was set to grow bigger than motor insurance.

SHIPPING (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)



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

Boxship owners hit with \$45m fine over 2021 Orange County oil spill

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The shipowners and insurers of the container ships *Beijing* and *MSC Danit* agreed to fork out \$45m in damages 9 Feb over a 2021 oil spill off Huntington Beach in California.

The ships dragged anchor over a pipeline

owned by Amplify Energy. The pipeline operator had previously agreed to pay \$50m in damages for the 3,000 barrel oil spill.

The pipeline connects the Elly drilling platform off the coast to Long Beach Harbor.

The combined \$95m in damages is expected

to be split between local homeowners, the fishing community as well as the tourist sector.

"Nobody deserves this more than the citizens of Orange County and the coastal community to have this matter resolved quickly," said co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs Wylie Aitken, co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs on Thursday. "It is certainly a result the Orange County coastal community and our Orange County community overall can be proud of, and



City of Huntington Beach

it sends a clear message California that they will to large corporations be held responsible for operating off the coast of their negligence.

US sharing intelligence with 40 allies about the nature of Chinese spy balloon

WASHINGTON
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

United States is engaging with as many as forty nations regarding Chinese surveillance activities in the wake of Washington shooting down a Chinese spy balloon on the country's east coast recently.

China's irresponsible actions were visible to us but also to the world and China has a lot to answer for they are presumably getting questions from countries all over the world about the nature of this program about these violations of some 40 countries across five continents, a State department

spokesperson Ned Price told a news conference.

Ned Price said, "We have engaged with them via the state department in Washington and our embassies around the world. This is a program that threatened



Salvage ship underway to collect Chinese spy balloon remains

MARINE NEWS

and violated our sovereignty but the sovereignty of dozens of countries." "We think it's important to share what it is that we know to hear questions and to answer questions from allies and partners around the world and to approach this challenge as we have many other challenges we face from the PRC with allies and partners by our side."

The spokesperson, however did not reveal the names of countries that US has engaged with. "These countries are free to speak to what has happened to them should they choose to do so." Indian agencies have spotted a balloon off the Andaman coast recently.

Mr. Price said that China acted "irresponsibly" by violating the US sovereignty, calling it a "profoundly irresponsible act." He stated that China's "irresponsible actions" were visible to the US and to the world. "China acted irresponsibly by violating our sovereignty. This was a profoundly irresponsible act in response to which we acted responsibly to protect our interests. This is not something that only the American people have been able to see in recent days," Ned Price said.

"We are always going to protect our interests, we did so in the tactical case of this balloon. We also said in the release that you mentioned we are exploring taking an action against PRC entities linked to the PLA that supported the balloon's incursion into US airspace," Ned Price said.

LOGISTIC NEWS

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The Geological Survey of India has discovered 5.9 million tons of inferred resources (G3) of lithium, which is used for making Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries, for the first time in the country at Salal-Haimana in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)'s Reasi district.

Mines at the preliminary stage of exploration are also known as G3.

The ministry of mines made the announcement

India discovers raw materials to manufacture Electric vehicles



Shri Vivek Bharadwaj
(IAS) Secretary, Ministry of Mines

about the discovery on Twitter.

It said Vivek Bharadwaj, the mines ministry secretary, handed over 16 geological

reports and memorandums to state governments during the 62nd Central Geological Programming Board meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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

Customs and immigration formalities take 4 hours at Mumbai airport

With Civil Aviation Ministry concentrating on introducing more and more international flights from Delhi and Mumbai airports,



6 green field airports commissioned in the country in the last 3 years



Six Green field airports have been commissioned in the country during the last three years including two international airports.....

JK Tyre to introduce sensor-based smart tyres for trucks too

Leading tyre maker JK Tyre & Industries will soon be launching its smart tyre ranges for trucks, a move that will not only provide truckers.....



Seafarers wages bill positive step but won't close loopholes exploited by P&O ferries

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The UK government is yet to close the legal loopholes that allowed P&O Ferries and its chief executive Peter Hebblethwaite to run roughshod over employment rights and led to the sacking of 786 seafarers last year.

P&O Ferries refused to consult workers through their trade unions and failed to notify the flag states of the vessels concerned in advance of the sackings. Nautilus general secretary Mark Dickinson said: 'If



government is serious about ensuring another P&O Ferries cannot happen again, more action needs to be taken.

'Whilst we are pleased to see the government pass primary legislation to ensure seafarers on vessels calling regularly at UK ports are paid at least the UK national minimum wage, this

cannot be the sum-total of government action.

'In the immediate aftermath of P&O Ferries mass-sacking the government committed to a nine-point plan, including the creation of national minimum wage corridors between the UK and neighbouring countries. We are keen to see delivery on this commitment as

it is central to tackling the race to the bottom that the actions of P&O Ferries and others have turbocharged.

'The government must close all the legal loopholes exposed by P&O Ferries' actions and ensure safe rostering patterns and crewing levels are included in a bi-lateral agreement with neighbouring countries. We look forward to continuing to work with government to ensure ambition will be met with action.'

On 7 February, the House of Commons passed the 'Seafarers Wages Bill' at the third reading, the bill

is now expected to receive royal assent and become law. The bill forms part of the government's response to the mass-sacking of 786 seafarers by P&O Ferries in March 2022, described as one of the darkest days in the country's recent maritime history.

P&O Ferries summarily sacked almost their entire British seafaring crew and replaced them with agency workers recruited from abroad, some paid less than the UK minimum wage working tours of duty that Nautilus International believes are unsafe.

MINISTRYNEWS

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India organized a two-day National Workshop on Content of Teaching-Learning Material and Assessment under New India Literacy Programme (NILP) on 6th and 7th February, 2023 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Govt. of India, Shri Sanjay Kumar inaugurated the workshop. Joint Secretary DoSEL Smt. Archana Awasthi Sharma; Director, Adult Education Bureau, Shri M.C.Worthing; Incharge-Cell for National Centre for Literacy, Prof. Usha Sharma, 150 academicians and functionaries from State Literacy Mission Authority, State Council for Educational Research and Training from all over India and Universities from Delhi attended the workshop.

In his inaugural address, **Shri Sanjay Kumar emphasized on adopting innovative approaches to reach out to non-literate**

Ministry of Education organizes a two-day National Workshop



A two-day workshop by Ministry of Education

learners with efficient use of time and resources. Smt. Archana Sharma Awasthi highlighted the importance of making NILP a success with active participation of all stakeholders and importance of right content of teaching learning in local languages. Prof. Usha Sharma briefed on methodology and approach adopted by CNCL while developing NILP resource materials and assessment material per social and cultural relevance of States and UTs.

Session based interactive deliberations by CNCL and NIOS professionals, group discussions and feedback from representatives of

States & UTs successfully helped in achieving the objectives of the workshop.

Smt. Harshika Singh, Collector Mandla (MP) explained the model of survey and imparting literacy to non-literate learners which was well received

The Government of India has started a new scheme of Education for All (erstwhile Adult Education) with a vision to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above, across the country covering 5 crore non-literates during the implementation period from 2022-23 to 2026-27

for eradicating illiteracy in the country...

The scheme is to be implemented through volunteerism. The learners will be encouraged to access the content in local languages in online mode through DIKSHA platform in NCERT. Government/Aided schools registered under UDISE are the units of implementation of the scheme which are run by the State/UT Governments. The scheme is to reach out to the age cohorts of 15-35 who are to be saturated first. **Priority is given to girls and women, SC/ST/OBC/Minorities, Persons with Special Needs/ Divyangjans Marginalized/ Nomadics/ construction workers/ labourers, etc** and who can substantially and immediately benefit from adult education. In terms of location/area, scheme is focused on all Aspirational Districts of NITI Aayog, districts with literacy rates less than the National/State average, districts with female literacy rates less than 60% as per the 2011 Census, districts/ blocks with large SC/ST/ Minority population. Educationally Backward Blocks and Left Wing Extremism Affected districts will also be covered.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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

Apart from Crude, India is also increasing coal imports from Russia

India has been increasingly looking to Russia, to cover its energy and raw materials needs,.....



Russia slashes crude production in March



As prices of Russian crude slumped to 40 US dollars per barrel, Moscow has decided to slash oil production by five hundred thousand barrels per day during March a leading Russian official was quoted by international media reports. The decision led to marginal increase

PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

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

U.S. East Coast Port Workers Begin Early Contract Talks

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Union locals that represent dockworkers at 36 ports from Maine to Texas have opened contract talks with employers well ahead of the current multiyear agreement's expiration next year.

Maritime industry officials say the early start to negotiations is a signal that both sides are eager to get a new contract amid a period of strained labor-management relations across industries, including at U.S. West Coast ports that compete for shipping trade.



US East Coast ports

"We're not doing this for practice, so the intention is to get it done," said John Nardi, president of the Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey, which represents ocean carriers and terminal operators at the East Coast's busiest port.

The International Longshoremen's Association, which represents

East Coast and Gulf Coast dockworkers, in September asked its locals to open talks with regional employer groups, said James McNamara, an ILA spokesman.

Mr. McNamara said the aim was to resolve or identify local issues by the middle of February so that the ILA can move on to negotiating a master agreement with the United States Maritime Alliance, which represents ocean carriers and terminal operators across Gulf Coast and East Coast ports. The current contract expires Sept. 30, 2024.

Negotiations on the West Coast have been stalled since midsummer and members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union have been working without a contract since then. The dockworkers and employers couldn't agree on an extension of their previous contract so provisions against job actions during the negotiations lapsed.

Importers wary of potential work slowdowns or a strike at the key gateways for Asia trade have pushed more inbound

goods to East and Gulf Coast ports since then.

Hopes for a speedy conclusion to the West Coast talks faded in the fall as the union and port employers hit a logjam over regional issues that have delayed discussion of major contract provisions such as wages and automation.

Shipping industry officials say the talks covering Gulf Coast and East Coast ports face fewer stumbling blocks.

The ILA has fiercely opposed the use of fully-automated equipment at ports covered by its contract. The ILA master agreement covers wages, healthcare and labor issues, such as worker productivity

Adani Gangavaram Port inducts a new loco at the port

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Visakhapatnam: February 10th, 2023: Adani Gangavaram Port the deepest and the most modern port in the country today inducted a new Loco Train to enhance the operational capacity & efficiency in rake handling from the port. The Port infrastructure is being developed with

forward planning for future requirements of increased volumes of rakes future. The port has also set a new record of handling 600 rakes in a month. Previously the Gangavaram port has handled 594 Rakes in the December month.

The Port is having state of the art infrastructure facilities to manage various imports and export cargos having deep depth multi-purpose cargo berths. In



New Loco Train of Adani Gangavaram Port

addition to that Adani Gangavaram Port is equipped with vast storage facilities including covered warehouses to manage various cargos and state of

the art material handling systems. Adani GPL is consistently performing well and creating newer records for cargo management.

Speaking on the occasion Adani Gangavaram Port Limited management said "We are extremely delighted on adding a new loco at the port and also achieve the new record of handling 600 rakes in one month. We at Adani Gangavaram Port offer substantial economic benefits to Indian importers combined with highly efficient port operations and evacuation system with faster turnaround time & delivery. We are extremely happy to see the trade derive benefits of modern deep-water infrastructure."

It is Semiofficial Adani ports to take over Karaikal port in central Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The two yearlong speculation about Adani ports takeover of the Karaikal port has ended when for the first time the Ahmedabad based company revealed the acquisition price for the stressed port after its bids are cleared by the lenders Omkara Assets reconstruction pvt ltd during December 2022 according to media reports



Karaikal port

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) is awaiting approval from a bankruptcy court in Chennai to buy indebted port company Karaikal Port Pvt Ltd for Rs1,500 crores under India's bankruptcy law, Chief Executive Officer of APSEZ, Karan Adani, has said.

"Through a bankruptcy court, we are taking over Karaikal Port at a capex

of Rs1,500 crore. We are the highest bidder for the port and the Committee of Creditors has approved our bid," Karan Adani, also a Whole Time Director of APSEZ, said in a call with analysts on February 7th after announcing the company's third quarter financial results.....

PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)



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

US Government to Invest Over \$660 Million in Port Development

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The United States Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) making available more than US\$662 million in Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 funding for MARAD's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP).

The purpose of the PIDP investment is to modernise the country's ports and help strengthen the supply chain sector in the US. The infrastructure package of the president of the



The purpose of the PIDP investment is to modernise the country's ports

US, Joe Biden, provides US\$450 million annually in funding for the programme.

In addition, MARAD's Port Infrastructure Development Program discretionary grants help eligible applicants including port authorities, states, local governments, indigenous Tribal

nations, counties, and other eligible entities complete critical port and port-related infrastructure projects.

Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips, commented, "The program also includes a statutory set-aside for small ports to continue to improve and expand their capacity to move freight reliably and efficiently, support local and regional economies, and support supply chain improvement."

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to support projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports.

MARAD will also consider how projects address climate change and sustainability, equity, and workforce development objectives.

In the coming weeks, the Federal Highway Administration will open FY 2022-2023 grant applications for the Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities program, which will make US\$160 million available to test, evaluate, and deploy projects that reduce port-related emissions from idling trucks, including through the advancement of port electrification and improvements in efficiency.

MARAD is also planning to host a series of webinars that describe PIDP NOFO requirements and the PIDP application process.

Full electrification of the US Port of New York and New Jersey could generate annual public health benefits of over \$150m: a study

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The working paper "Electrifying ports to reduce diesel pollution from ships and trucks and benefit public health: Case studies of the Port of Seattle and the Port of New York and New Jersey" from the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) looks at the potential impacts on air quality and public health of full electrification of the ports.

Both the port of Seattle and Port of New York and New Jersey have electrification plans underway, but the study forecasts the impact of full electrification – 100% shore power for ocean going vessels at berth, 100% electrification of harbour craft, and 100% electrification of trucks in the port.

Using computer models to estimate the impact of such measures, authors Zhihang Meng and Bryan Comer, Ph.D. found that average concentrations of fine particulate matter near the Port of Seattle could be cut by 0.3–0.42 µg/cu m, compared to a 2019 average of 7.5 µg/cu m. The area effected by emissions from the Port of Seattle could also be cut from from 292.1 sq km to 54.5 sq km.

"Air quality improvement near the Port of Seattle under the full electrification scenario is estimated to provide monetized health benefits of over \$27 million annually. For the Port of NY/NJ, air quality improvement is expected to translate to at least \$150 million of health benefits per year," said the paper.

The total area affected by Port

of NY/NJ emissions could be cut from 2,172.3 sq km to 504.5 sq km, with significant improvements in air quality in both the City of Elizabeth and Jersey City. Oceangoing vessels were found to be the biggest contributors to emissions of carbon dioxide,

particulate matter and nitrogen oxides. Full electrification could reduce port fine particulate emissions by 75% at the Port of Seattle and 69% for NY/NJ, said the report.

The full report can be accessed online.



Full electrification of ports of New York, New Jersey, Seattle to bring public health says a study

TUTICORIN TERMINAL INDIA
DBGT

DAKSHIN BHARAT GATEWAY TERMINAL PVT.LTD.

Connecting Territories...

- ◆ Well Connected to Colombo... Daily Sailings... Shortest Transit... First & Last Mile connectivity at its best... The most advantageous Gateway Port of South India for EXIM trade.
- ◆ Capability to handle Larger Vessels. Created history in V.O.Chidambaranar Port by accommodating vessel having LOA of 299.95m
- ◆ Most competitive dwell time performer among South Indian Ports*.
- ◆ Well supported by 17 CFSs (incl.One ICD), Road and Rail Network.
- ◆ Winner of "Container Handling Terminal of the Year" in 13th South East India Cargo & Logistics Awards 2022 held at Chennai on 24th June 2022.

BERTH NO.8, V.O.C. PORT AUTHORITY, TUTICORIN - 628004.
 CUSTOMER SERVICE: 0461 2382241 | OPERATIONS : +91 95970 88152
 MARKETING : +91 77080 05972 +91 75581 85444.

PORTS (REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

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

Cargo traffic at India's major ports up 9 per cent in April-January

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Cargo handling at major ports saw an over 9 per cent increase, y-o-y, for the April-January period (10MFY23) to 647 million tonnes (mt) compared with 592 mt in the same period last year.

Container traffic across the dozen major ports however saw a little over one percent increase to 9,454 twenty-foot equivalent units (9,337 TEUs); while in terms of tonnage, container traffic stood at 141 mt (139 mt),



Cargo handling at major ports saw an over 9 per cent increase, y-o-y, for the April-January period (10MFY23)

up 1.30 per cent y-o-y, according to the Indian Ports Association data.

The major ports include Kolkata and Haldia Dock Systems (together known as Syama Prasad Mookherjee Port),

Paradip, Vishakhapatnam, Kamarajar (or Ennore), Chennai, VO Chidambaranar, Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Deendayal.

Among these, Deendayal Port saw a 8 per cent rise in cargo handling y-o-y to 116 mt (18 per cent of total) followed by Paradip – up 17 per cent traffic growth of 110 mt (17 per cent of the total cargo traffic) and JNPA that handled 69 mt of cargo, up

9 per cent. Mormugao was the only major port that saw a decline in cargo traffic by 8 per cent y-o-y to 13.8 mt. Cargo handled for the same period last year was 15 mt. The fall came primarily because of a 34 per cent fall in shipments of iron ore at 1.7 mt (vs 2.6 mt)

The increase in cargo traffic came on the back of higher shipments across categories like coal and petroleum & other crude products.

Thermal coal handled increased nearly 36 per

cent to 107.4 mt (78.9 mt); while coking coal shipments rose 20 per cent-odd to 49 mt (41 mt).

Petroleum and other crude products handling saw a 7 per cent rise in April – Jan to 195 mt. Traffic handled in the segment last year was 183 mt.

Deendayal port witnessed the highest shipments at 52 mt, up 4 per cent; followed by Mumbai and Paradip ports, each handling around 31 mt of petroleum and crude products, up 6–11 per cent

Palghar Residents up their ante against Vadavan Port

MUMBAI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

The residents of Palghar and activists who are opposing the construction of a Mega Port at Vadavan have urged the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority (DTEPA), a Supreme Court-appointed quasi-judicial body, to defer its February 13 hearing on the Port, including the permissibility of the project in the eco-fragile Dahanu taluka.

The shipping Ministry is proceeding with the Vadavan Mega port project brushing aside concerns expressed by environmentalists and the fact project was vetoed by the environment ministry a few years ago. The port is



Vadhavan port

planned to be constructed to further augment port capacity in the west coast while many of the container terminals in the east coast are working to 50 per cent of their capacity for the past eight years.

With the Union Environment Ministry recently declining to grant Jawaharlal Nehru

Port Authority (JNPA) an amendment in Terms of Reference (ToR) for the port, activists contend that any parallel consideration by the DTEPA would be a futile exercise.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port authority which is planning to construct the satellite port at Vadavan had sought permission from

environment authorities to dredge up 200 million cubic meters of earth from the ocean floor off the coast of Daman to reclaim land for the port, instead of the originally sanctioned plan to quarry 80 million cubic meters of murrum soil (fragmented rocks) from the identified hillocks in Palghar district. But in a meeting of the MoEFCC's expert appraisal committee (EAC) on ports and harbors on January 12, it was noted that "the instant proposal cannot be considered... as (its) entire scope and configuration has changed."

The Vadavan Bandar Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti (VVBSS), an apex organization representing the interests of multiple fish worker societies in the Palghar-Thane-Mumbai coastal belt, on Wednesday 8 Feb wrote to

the DTEPA, saying, "This Authority is required to consider the impact of the proposed projects in Dahanu in a holistic manner. This would entail the consideration of all the reports prepared by the project proponent in pursuance of its application for CRZ and Environmental Clearance, apart from the compliance with the Dahanu EFA Notification January 1991 according to media reports

"The ToR was initially given by the MOEFCC in 2020. Based on this ToR, a number of studies have been undertaken by JNPA through various agencies, like environment impact assessment report, report on impact on fisheries, and so on. But if JNPA wants to amend the TOR, they will also have to update these studies accordingly.

It is Semiofficial Adani ports to take over Karaikal port in central Tamil Nadu From Page 8

This is the first time APSEZ has revealed the acquisition price after its bid was cleared by the lenders panel of Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt Ltd (Omkara ARC) in December 2022.

The Chennai bench of

the National Company Law Tribunal is expected to clear the resolution plan submitted by APSEZ in the next couple of months.

Karaikal Port would be APSEZ's second port

acquisition under India's bankruptcy law after Dighi port in Maharashtra. Karaikal Port Pvt Ltd runs the all-weather Karaikal port developed on a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) format under the Public Private Partnership

(PPP) mode on a 30-year concession awarded by the Puducherry government. The port started operations in June 2009.

Chennai - based infrastructure developer Marg Ltd, promoted by Reddy, held a 45 per cent

stake in Karaikal Port while four private equity funds – Ascent Capital Advisors India Pvt Ltd, Jacob Ballas Capital India Pvt Ltd, Affirma Capital India and GIP India – together owned 44 per cent stake.



India's EV charging infrastructure falls quite short

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The move towards green energy is leading to soaring electric vehicle sales in India. But India may not have enough infrastructure to cater to the demand from the rising number of electric vehicles.

As of January 23, 2023, India had 5,254 public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, to cater to a total of 20.65 lakh EVs. This is according to the data revealed in Lok Sabha by Minister RK Singh and the Vahan dashboard. **This means for every 393 electric**



A man charges an electric vehicle (EV) at a charging hub in Gurugram

vehicles in the country, there is one public charging station.

According to a white paper by Alvarez and Marsal, a global professional services firm, released in July 2022, "The global ideal EV/

public chargers ratio is also around 6-20 EVs per public charger, whereas, in India, it currently stands at an estimated 135."

According to the report, the EV to charger ratio in 2022 was 6 in China and the Netherlands, 19 in the US. The paper also recommended setting up approximately 46,000 more charging stations in the country.

While higher number of electric 2- and 3-wheelers, which are typically charged at home, reduces the requirement for public charging stations in India, the numbers do need to increase.

While answering another question, the ministry said that **316 charging stations were added in FY20, while 1,742 were added in FY21.**

Even though this report wasn't mentioned, the ministry said that "Action plans for 9 major cities have been prepared by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) for installation of public charging stations. As per the initial estimates, **a total of 46,397 public charging stations (PCS) are being targeted in these cities by 2030.**"

Karnataka has the most EV charging stations in the country – 774 followed by Maharashtra with 660, Delhi with 539 and Tamil Nadu with 442 stations.

Advanced Drone Air Traffic Management System 'Skye UTM'

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service



Drone

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday 8 Feb unveiled Skye UTM, touted as the most cutting-edge unmanned traffic management system in the world, here which is **capable of handling 4,000 flights per hour and 96,000 flights per day.**

Skye UTM is a Cloud-based aerial traffic management system that integrates unmanned air traffic with the manned aviation airspace.

Skye UTM has been built towards providing situational awareness, autonomous navigation, risk assessment, and traffic management to all drone/other aerial mobility operators across the airspace.

Emphasising new technologies in construction, infra and highway sector, the minister said **it is the right time for Indian drone startups to lead the industry.**

"Drones are going to be used across sectors — from construction, agriculture, healthcare, defence, infrastructure, surveying, real estate, and transport. Drone companies will even monitor highways and road construction. There is a lot of research happening that will certainly help scale its usage," Gadkari said at the event.

He said the Ministry will soon invite participation from drone

startups to be deployed for real-time monitoring and speed up highway constructions, and also keep a check on fatal road accidents.

A tender will soon be floated by the ministry to execute the operation, the Minister informed.

According to Ankit Kumar, CEO, Skye Air, "Skye UTM is a game changer in this regard providing situational awareness to both regulators and pilots, by digitally establishing communication with the drones and connecting traffic across the airspace," said Kumar.

Skye UTM has supported more than 300 successful BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) drone flights to date. The Skye UTM captures more than 255 parameters of UAV movements and stores them into its 'Blackbox' which is a published systematic description of the entire flight.

The platform offers the first 3D view of the drone airspace, along with operations and regulations mapping servers which offer the latest airspace status, verified paths, and display real time UAV movements, said the company.

With the system's successful commercial debut in India, **Skye UTM is now accessible to everyone** and the traffic management system will also be introduced globally in the coming days.

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 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	- Nhavasheva International Container Terminal
NSIGT	- Nhavasheva 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



India's defence exports worth nearly Rs 1 lakh cr now: PM Modi in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Prim Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Thursday 9 Feb detailed the employment opportunities that have arisen in the nine years of his government's tenure so far while also stressing on the 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in various sectors.

India's exports in the defence sector are over Rs 1 lakh crore now and new companies entering the segment to make the country 'Atmanirbhar', PM Modi said Underlining the need for self-reliance in the defence sector the prime minister said that the



PM in Rajya Sabha

government has worked with this mission in this sector so much so that the country is now exporting equipment nearly worth Rs 1 lakh crore.

While addressing the Rajya Sabha during the

Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, the prime minister hit out at the Congress party over the issue of employment and said that **attempts are being made to spread falsehood.**

Run on Petrol pumps in Pakistan as the stock position precarious

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News BUREAU

Pakistan's petrol stocks have touched a new low resulting in run on the pumps during the last few days. Official sources quoted by media reports say that **stocks would last for another 18 days amidst serious foreign exchange crisis crippling imports**

Pakistan's Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik told reporters the government had enough fuel stocks for the rest of this month, and that shortages faced by consumers were due to oil companies' stockpiling. "I am requesting and warning companies.. licenses will be taken away," he said

The Pakistan government - struggling with external debts in excess of 130 billion US

dollars said it is not planning to hike fuel prices and that it has enough stock for at least 20 days. Prime minister Shehbaz Sharif's administration also warned oil companies against stockpiling after reports people were not able to purchase fuel surfaced on social media.

A member of Pak's Oil Companies



It has enough stock for 20 days says Pakistan

Advisory Council's (OCAC) said **only a few firms were licensed to sell petrol;** several others were not due to financial problems, the report added. Petroleum ministry is helping process letters of credits to import fuels, the country's low foreign exchange reserves and artificial curbs remain a hindrance," he added.

Abdul Sami Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association, said consumers were facing shortages because of oil companies not supplying adequate stock. "Consumers think we're not giving them fuel and they blame us..." he said.

Inflation in Pak is at a multi-decade high of 27.6 per cent.

The government is negotiating a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but the depreciating value of the Pakistani rupee is pushing up the price of imported goods. The government raised fuel prices by 15 per cent last month, shortly before talks with the IMF delegation began.

India notifies to WTO its quality control plans for 12 protective textile items



A total 48 items of medi-tech are already covered under Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's regulation

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

India has notified to the WTO of its intention to come up with a quality control order (QCO) for 12 items made of protective textile including protective clothing and gloves, bullet resistance jackets, high-visibility warning clothes and water-proof multi-purpose rain ponchos.

The QCO, which makes Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification mandatory for sale of the identified items in the domestic market, is aimed at ensuring health and safety of consumers but also plays an important role in curbing cheap imports.

"The final date for comments (from WTO members) is sixty days from the date of notification," per the notification made to the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade of the WTO.

Protective textile is a technical textile which has protective attributes like extending protection from extreme heat and cold, hazardous chemicals, germs and ballistic including projectiles of

various shapes, sizes, and impact velocities.

The draft Protective Textiles (Quality Control) Order, 2022, to be published in the Gazette of India, does not yet have a proposed date of adoption but **is to be implemented six months after it is adopted.**

The QCO for the 12 protective textile items is part of the Textiles Ministry's larger plan of bringing a total 107 technical textiles items under the ambit of quality control. Those in the pipeline include 19 geo-tech items, 22 agro-tech items and 6 medi-tech items, according to the Textile Ministry.

A total 48 items of medi-tech are already covered under Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) regulation.

Over 500 BIS standards have already been developed on technical textiles while BIS is working on developing 40 more such standards as per requirement of industry.

The Centre is also trying to push domestic manufacture of technical textiles through the Production Linked Incentive scheme.