



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya digitally flags off MV AAI along Brahmaputra river

INDIA BANGLA PROTOCOL ROUTE FACILITATES INEXPENSIVE LOGISTICS FOR BHUTAN- BANGLADESH TRADE

The Indian logistics scenario is now on a roll as the first inland cargo ship MV AAI arrived with its consignment sailing along Brahmaputra river to Bangladesh on July 19, 2019. The cargo ship containing 1000 tonnes of crushed stone aggregate was flagged off by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c) and Chemicals & Fertilizers from Dhubri in Assam on July 12, 2019.

INDIAN LOGISTICS ON A HIGH



The Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route marked in blue

For the first time in Indian history, an Indian waterway was used to move cargo between two countries as MV AAI sailed along the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol routes. The use of inland waterways to transport cargo from our landlocked neighboring country Bhutan, to Bangladesh is a significant move in terms of ease of transportation and reduced logistics costs. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, the Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) and Chemicals & Fertilizers said, "The move will be beneficial to India as well as Bhutan and Bangladesh and strengthen relations between the neighbouring countries. The transportation of cargo through this route will cut short travel time by eight to ten days and reduce transportation cost by 30 per cent, thus, bringing down logistics costs," adding, "It will also be a more environment-friendly mode of transport."

Bhutan is a major exporter of crushed stone aggregate and had been exporting significant quantities to Bangladesh through the land route. Transportation through waterways will nearly halve the carrying time in addition to reduced haulage costs. MV AAI transported jute and rice on its return voyage from Bangladesh to India.

Inland waterways are being used in India for transportation of cargo on the Kolkata-Varanasi and the Kolkata-Patna container cargo routes, ever since they were opened for logistics purposes by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). While these were mostly confined to inter-state transport, international cargo movement received a fillip for the first time as the three neighbouring countries agreed to boost international trade using Indian waterways as the transit.





Signing of MoU between IIT Kharagpur and MoS

IIT KHARAGPUR TO COME UP WITH ITS SHIP DESIGN AND TESTING FACILITY

The Ministry of Shipping is actively promoting the use of indigenous technology under the "Make in India" programme. To improve ports and shipping infrastructure, ensure port development and consequent operational efficiency under the Sagarmala Programme, the Ministry of Shipping has entered into an agreement with IIT Kharagpur for setting up the Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology (CICMT).

The programme funded to the tune of Rs 69.20 crores by the government would allow modern technologies for inland water transportation and cargo haulage through coastal shipping. Explaining the purpose of setting up CICMT at IIT Kharagpur, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, the Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) and Chemicals & Fertilizers said, "To boost 'Make in India' drive of the Prime Minister and develop advanced vessels on the latest technology here in India, we will set up Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology (CICMT) at IIT Kharagpur. So far, only a few nations such as Germany, Netherlands, Russia and Belgium possess these technologies and excel in maritime research. The facility can be used not just by Indian shipyards, but also by shipyards outside India as well."



Ministry of Shipping signs an agreement with IIT Kharagpur for setting up CICMT

First of its kind in India, the CICMT will help push the domestic shipbuilding industry forward with the use of indigenous technology. Additionally, the centre will work on projects related to ship design for coastal and inland waterways, shipbuilding technology and structural design, transport systems & logistics, cryogenic cargo handling, green/renewable energy harvesting from coastal and inland waters and automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for maritime operations.

Deemed as a major leap, CICMT will be futuristic in approach, thus, reducing India's dependence on foreign technology while ensuring savings in terms of costs and time for projects related to inland waterways and coastal shipping.





India signs MoU with Maldives to boost Maritime Logistics

BOOST TO INDIAN MARITIME LOGISTICS AS INDIA SIGNS MoU WITH MALDIVES

Relations between India and Maldives received a boost when an MoU was signed between the two countries, thus, allowing passenger and cargo services between the two countries through the sea network. The MoU was signed on June 08, 2019 during the Prime Minister's visit to the Maldives.

Till date, tourists travelling to Maldives preferred taking the air route. However, the agreement between the two countries will encourage connectivity between Kochi and other ports in India and Male in Maldives by a ferry service. This will not only likely encourage inbound tourism but would also lead to greater cargo movement through the sea route.

A NEW DATA CENTRE FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust continues to advance its development plans as it added a new Data Center for Container Terminal on May 03, 2019. The new data centre has been designed with a futuristic approach and is supported by advanced technical infrastructure, thus, enabling smooth integration of technology into port operations. The centre launched by JNPT is an additional step towards enhancing its operational efficiency necessary for providing efficient service coupled with ensuring "Ease of Doing Business" for the EXIM community.



Unveiling of new container terminal data centre at JNPT

Appointment

Chairman NMPT. Shri AV Ramana has been appointed as the Chairman of the New Mangalore Port Trust. Shri Ramana took over on June 11, 2019. Prior to this appointment, Shri Ramana had served as Chairman of the Cochin Port Trust (additional charge).

A postgraduate in Mechanical Engineering from BITS Pilani, Shri Ramana has served in various capacities at Kolkata Port Trust, Indian Ports Association and the Indian Maritime University.





MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO PROMOTE COASTAL SHIPPING

Shipping of goods, especially horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry commodities have now received a boost as the Union Ministry of Shipping relaxed cabotage rules under Sections 406 & 407 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State Shipping (I/C) and Chemicals & Fertilizers informed, "In order to promote coastal shipping, the Ministry of Shipping, in exercise of powers vested in the Central Government vide Section 407(3) of the Merchant Shipping Act, has relaxed cabotage rules and allowed foreign-flagged ships to engage in coastal trade in India without obtaining licence from Directorate General of Shipping for coastal movement of certain specified items." The relaxation has been provided for the following:

- Specialised vessels including RO-RO, RO-PAX, Hybrid Ro-Ro, pure car carriers, pure car and truck carriers, LNG vessels and over-dimensional cargo or project cargo
- EXIM or empty containers
- Agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry commodities
- Fertilizers

The rules were amended to bridge the gap between the requirement and the availability of ships operating in the coastal routes. The amendment will permit an Indian citizen, a company or a cooperative society registered within the country to carry out coastal trade of certain specified cargo items without the requirement to obtain a licence from the Directorate General of Shipping. Major ports in India have shown good growth in coastal shipping during the past few years.



SHIPPING AND TOURISM MINISTRIES COME TOGETHER TO BOOST MARITIME TOURISM

Maritime tourism is set to receive a fillip as Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State Shipping (I/c) and Chemicals & Fertilizers met Shri. Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c) on July 31, 2019. The meeting was held to discuss ways and means of garnering the potential of maritime tourism in India, both domestic and international.

A committee comprising of senior officials of both the Ministries has been set up to explore the avenues for coastal tourism in the country.



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya meeting Shri. Prahlad Singh Patel to discuss prospects of maritime tourism

SHIPPING MINISTRY TO FOCUS ON SEAFARERS' TRAINING

The importance of infrastructure cannot be overstated considering that a solid infrastructure is fundamental to any country's economic growth. However, infrastructure needs skilled human resources to support it. In order to increase the number of qualified Indian seafarers' as also to multi-skill them, the ministry has instituted several measures. Initiating a slew of measures, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State Shipping (I/c) and Chemicals & Fertilizers said, "Creating job potential by increasing the number of seafarers will be one of the priority areas for the Shipping Ministry. During the last five years, the number of seafarers had increased from 92,000 to two lakhs. Seafarers earn in dollars, and they can work in various capacities in a ship, including in the kitchen," adding that, "there is scope to retrain several people located along the coast, as seafarers."

The Shipping Ministry has directed maritime training institutes across the country to provide the skills and necessary practical training to seafarers. Moreover, terms and conditions have been relaxed to ensure increased availability of vessel slots to train students interested in working with the maritime sector.



Maritime institutes told to give practical training to seafarers

JNPT CREATES RECORD IN CONTAINER HANDLING OF CARGO

During the FY 2018-19, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) handled container cargo to the tune of 5.13 Million TEUs as opposed to 4.83 Million TEUs handled during the previous year. The port had handled 4.71 lakh TEUs in March 2019 alone setting a record of sorts. Performance statistics of the port reflects the port's improved operational efficiency in terms of port-led development and better cargo handling ability.

Upgradation and expansion of infrastructure at our ports, over the past few years, as part of the Sagamala Programme has led to improved operational performance and would shift cargo movement from road and rail to coastal shipping, in due course.



JNPT creates record in container cargo handling

JNPT ORGANIZES TRAINING FOR SEAPORT EMERGENCY HANDLERS

Security issues must never be ignored. Keeping this in mind, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in conjunction with the Indian Ports Association (IPA), National Disaster Management Authority and Institute of Nuclear Medicines and Allied Sciences conducted a training programme on "CBRN Emergency Management" for seaport emergency handlers. The four-day programme included information on the safety and regulatory aspects of the CBRN materials in the port. More than 40 personnel from the JNPT, private port operators, tank farms and CISF in addition to other stakeholders participated in the port's efforts directed at issues related to port vulnerability, psychosocial issues with CBRN emergencies and demo activities at seaport.



Focus on training of seaport emergency handlers

ODISHA'S FIRST DESALINATION PLANT TO BE SET UP AT PARADIP PORT

The Ministry of Shipping (MoS) is keen on implementing Coastal Community Development, an important pillar of the Sagarmala project, considering a chunk of the country's population lives in the coastal areas. In a bid to do away with the current water crisis affecting various Indian states, the Paradip Port Trust (PPT) is setting up the first state-of-the-art 10 million litres per day desalination plant in Odisha. In this regard, an MoU was signed between PPT and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India on July 15, 2019.



Paradip Port to setup desalination plant for community welfare

The plant that works on Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) technology will benefit the people living in the PPT township.

INCREASED CARGO MOVEMENT THROUGH OUR INLAND WATERWAYS

The Ministry of shipping is set to develop, in a phased manner, the technically viable 111 National Waterways, for increasing shipping and navigation. The focus on using waterways for national transportation of cargo and passengers has led to enhanced cargo haulage on waterways to 72.31 MT in 2018-19 from 55.20 MT in 2016-17 a growth of 30% in the past three years.



More cargo to be transported through Inland Waterways

Replying to a question raised by the Members of the Parliament in the Lok Sabha on July 11, 2019, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State Shipping (I/c) and Chemicals & Fertilizers informed, "Various initiatives have been taken by the Government to increase the use of

Inland Waterways and Coastal Shipping for greater cargo shipment. These include providing the assured depth of water in the waterways, navigation aids like GPS and River Information System, terminals at regular intervals, facilities for mechanized handling of cargo handling, etc."

To augment the coastal movement of cargo at major Indian ports, the Ministry has announced a minimum of 40 per cent discount in berthing to coastal vessels in addition to priority in berthing. Also, the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade have announced subsidies on fertilizer transportation in addition to the passage of raw materials and finished products to the country's North-Eastern region using its inland waterways network.

