

FULL STEAM AHEAD AGAINST CORONA

Soon after the Ministry of Health began monitoring the developments taking place as a consequence of the spread of Coronavirus, the Ministry of Shipping initiated measures to acquaint, educate and disseminate information relating to the virus. The Ministry drew up guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed by all major ports and also coordinated with State Governments and Maritime Boards to implement similar measures at non-major ports. The action-oriented steps by the Ministry were essential as a nation-wide screening of travelers was being initiated at all entry points. Ports being the gateway for entry of seafarers and tourists from the sea, similar measures were essential to



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c) and Chemical & Fertilizers Reviewing Port Preparedness over Coronavirus Pandemic

block the entry of the virus from this entry point as well. Secondly, 95 per cent of India's export/import trade takes place by sea. To keep the logistic supply lines open and ensure there is no disruption in the availability of goods and commodities, ports need to continue to be operational as an essential service provider to the nation. With these two aspects in view, SOPs were drawn up to be followed by all ports.

The overall theme was based on the concept of 'Screen Detect Quarantine'. The SOPs included guidelines for port health officials for monitoring movement of embarking and disembarking crews and goods, need for maintaining social distancing as also guidelines for port officials and workers whilst interacting with ships' crews. Additionally, quarantine facilities have also been set up within port premises and in liaison with local hospitals for use by crews suspected of being a carrier of the virus.

Soon after the ports were ready in all respects, mock drills were conducted at all ports to ensure there are no lacunae in the guidelines as also for the port workers to practice their roles. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c) and Chemical & Fertilizers, who is a member of the GoM reviewing the preparedness to contain the deadly coronavirus, has been holding regular review meetings with port and maritime board officials via video conferencing to review the actions.

As part of the SOPs, port calls by Cruise Ships which had not notified their schedule by 1st January 2020, were barred from calling at Indian ports. Other cruise ships underwent normal screening processes and tourists who had travel history to the notified countries were not permitted to disembark for city tours.

As the ports remain fully operational, maintaining 24/7 operations, screening of crews, ships and cargo has been a humongous task. By April 12, 2020, more than 50,902 seafarers have been screened and impacted personnel and ships acted upon.

There has been complete compliance of the SOPs outlined by the Ministry and strict monitoring and screening of all ships calling at Indian ports has been undertaken with ports taking no chances in this regard. Port health officials, the nodal point for the fight against Coronavirus, have been playing an extremely crucial role. Additionally, the ports have been undertaking periodical sanitisation of areas that are likely infected due to the presence and movement of a large workforce in the port complex. Despite the restrictions imposed on ports, operations have been maintained at their optimum efficiency levels.



Model MoU for Recognition of Seafarers' Certificates Approved



The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, approved the Model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for unilateral or bilateral recognition of certificates pursuant to Regulation 1/10 of International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers, 1978. The MoU would be concluded between the Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India and its counterparts in foreign countries with the approval of Minister-in-charge of Shipping and the Minister of External Affairs. The unilateral MoU would facilitate unilateral recognition by another

country of the certificates issued by the Directorate General of Shipping to Indian seafarers, without seeking similar recognition by India of the certificates issued by that country. Indian Seafarers, therefore, would be eligible to be placed on ships under the flag of that country for employment, thus leading to increased employment opportunities.

The bilateral MoU would enable India and other countries with which such an MoU may be entered, to mutually recognise maritime education and

training, certificates of competency, endorsements, documentary evidence of training and medical fitness certificates, issued to the seafarers who are citizens of respective countries in accordance with the provisions of regulation 1/10 of the STCW Convention. The bilateral MoU would, therefore, make the seafarers of both the countries to be eligible for employment on ships of either party based on the certificates so recognised. India being a seafarer supplying nation with large pool of trained seafarers will stand to be benefitted.

Deep-sea Vessels for Coastal Communities



A large part of India's population lives along its coasts. With a view to increase fish production and incentivise the seafood industry, thereby, increasing employment opportunities, the fishermen community in coastal areas are being provided deep-sea vessels at subsidised costs. Participating in a seminar on "Challenges of Coastal Community and Their Role in Nation Building", Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c) and Chemical & Fertilizers added that the Ministry of Shipping is currently focused on developing the blue economy and the shipbuilding industry to ensure prolonged prosperity to the coastal community.

Reiterating the government's intent to develop inland waterways and promote cargo movement through coastal shipping, Shri Mandaviya added that cargo movement through inland waterways would considerably increase in the coming four years, thus, reducing logistics costs for cargo shipping. He also highlighted that the inland waterway route from Dhubri to Dibrugarh and then through Bangladesh to Sundarbans on the Brahmaputra river had created new logistics opportunities for the country's Northeast. The Ministry was also exploring possibilities of building jetties and to promote cruise tourism.





India & Portugal sign Agreement on maritime transport, ports

India and Portugal Agree on Mutual Cooperation in Maritime Transport & Ports

India and Portugal agreed on opening avenues for cooperation to promote maritime transport between the two countries. Both countries agreed to cooperate on harmonisation and uniting their position with the International Organisation Institution, holding forums and conferences associated with maritime and port activities apart from organising operation of their merchant fleets. An MoU to develop a world-class National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat with the cooperation from the Republic

of Portugal was also concluded. This will pave the way for cooperation between the two countries for showcasing their maritime heritage. The NMHC will consolidate all diverse and rich artefacts from ancient to modern times. It will provide access to the public and make them aware of India's rich maritime heritage. The coming together of both countries will allow them to access international conventions so that the Agreement's objectives may be strengthened.

JNPT & Antwerp Port Authority Discuss Initiatives for Seamless Trade between Indore and Global Markets

Both Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Antwerp Port Authority, in association with Associated Global Logistics Pvt Ltd conducted a Knowledge Session on "Gateways for trade between the India-Europe corridors" on January 25, 2020. Discussions were held on the role of ports in international trade and supply chain ecosystem, technological inventiveness affecting the sector and various initiatives that must be taken for smooth gateway to customers trading via the sea in the India-Europe corridors.

Whilst addressing the delegates, which also included industry captains of Indore along with the trade fraternity, Shri Sanjay Sethi, Chairman, JNPT said, "Indore was a significant market for JNPT, and, therefore connectivity to/from there was extremely significant to further increase the market economy of Indore and Madhya Pradesh. He urged the EXIM community of Indore to take advantage of JNPT's facilities to trade across the world as it could open an opportunity for enhancing cargo generation between Indore and JNPT.



Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust & Antwerp Port Authority Attending the Knowledge Session on "Gateways for trade between the India-Europe corridors" at Indore

Cabinet Extends PLR Scheme for Major Port Trust and Dock Labour Board Employees

The Union Cabinet has approved to extend the current Productivity Linked Reward (PLR) Scheme beyond 2017-18 till further change or amendment is sought in the same. The scheme is expected to benefit 28,821 people employed in the country's major port trusts and docks. The PLR scheme would be evaluated on the existing wage ceiling to calculate bonus at Rs. 7000 every month and involves an annual outgo of nearly Rs. 46 crores. Aimed to induce better industrial association and a conducive work environment, the scheme was first put in place to boost port productivity. The existing PLR scheme is granted based on the composite Ports Performance Index on an annual basis based on the settlement arrived at between the management and the labour federations of the major port trusts.



Effective Measures in Place for MARPOL Compliance



Being a signatory of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), India has a robust system for ensuring that ship generated pollution is kept under control. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) for Shipping informed members of the Lok Sabha during the current session. He informed that under the provisions of Chapter XIA of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, compliance is monitored and regulated by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) and non-compliance is addressed by exercising powers vested through Section 356E and 356G of the Act. Ships contravening the requirements are detained until the non-compliances are rectified and a detention fees is imposed.

Importantly, the Minister highlighted that in order to reduce pollution of air by sulphur oxide, MARPOL Annex VI (Prevention of Air Pollution) has been amended and now requires that from 1 January 2020 Sulphur content of fuel used on board ships should not exceed 0.5% mass/mass. The Directorate General of Shipping has issued Engineering Circular 02 of 2019 implementing the same on Indian Ships and foreign ships coming to Indian ports. Further, with respect to prevention and control of pollution in inland-waterways, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) regulates the same through the concerned State Maritime Authorities.

Shipping Ministry Approves 13th Major Port in Maharashtra

The Government of India has approved the development of a greenfield port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra. The port would be developed on the landlord model through incorporation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Companies Act, 2013 with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) as the lead partner.

The financing of the project would be through a mix of equity capital and debt. While the equity capital would be raised through the incorporated SPV, multilateral financial institutions would make way for raising debt.

The project would be completed in two phases. The first phase of the project is slated to be in operation in five years subject to necessary statutory clearances and investment approval.





'Chintan Baithak' - Ports Review Meeting with Chairpersons of All Major Ports

Port Improvement Measures Reviewed at 'Chintan Baithak'

A Ports Review Meeting held at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu on March 01, 2020 reviewed matters that would help augment ports' performance and increasing their competitive ability. Issues that drew the attention, inter alia, included port modernisation, implementation of e-governance model, development of India as a trans-shipment hub, the need for coastal community development to generate employment apart from setting forth guidelines for preparing Vision 2030 for the maritime sector. During the second day of the meet, Sri M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India, who graced the 'Chintan Baithak' urged authorities to work towards bringing Indian ports at par with global ports.

During an interaction with Sri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c) and Chemicals & Fertilizers, the Chairpersons of various ports presented their respective ports' performance and major achievements while attributing them to a slew of innovative measures aimed at port development. The Chairpersons also apprised the Minister about the issues plaguing various ports and matters that necessitate Ministerial interventions.

Inauguration of Concrete Floating Jetty in Goa

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c) inaugurated the country's first floating concrete jetty in Goa on 21st February, 2020 on the banks of National Waterway-68 (Mandovi river) in the august presence of Shri Pamod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Shripad Naik, Minister of AYUSH and Shri Vinay Tendulkar, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. This is the first project to be completed under the tripartite MoU signed by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) and Captain of Ports (CoP) Department, Govt. of Goa in May 2018 for the development of National Waterways in Goa. Under the MoU, the projects are to be funded by IWAI, executed by MPT as the Project Management Consultant (PMC) under the overall guidance of CoP.

The floating jetty on NW- 68 is the first such facility in the country made of cement concrete, which can be realigned, relocated and resized as per requirement. The technology used in making the jetty has been offered by a Finland based company M/S Marinetek and is now transferred under the Make in India programme. The cement concrete jetties built under the modern technology are environment friendly, have the potential to be built in a short span of time and are expected to boost the development of NWs in the country. Under the project three more such jetties are to be built in Goa.



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c) Inaugurating the Concrete Floating Jetty in Goa

Investing in Coastal Tourism to Develop Communities along India's Coasts

Coastal tourism is an important aspect of coastal community development under the Sagarmala Programme. With roughly 18 per cent of India's population living in the country's coastal districts, creating economic opportunities along the coast is essential to help sustain their daily livelihoods. By promoting the tourism sector along the coastal areas and attracting both domestic and foreign tourists, employment opportunities could be created for the population of these districts.

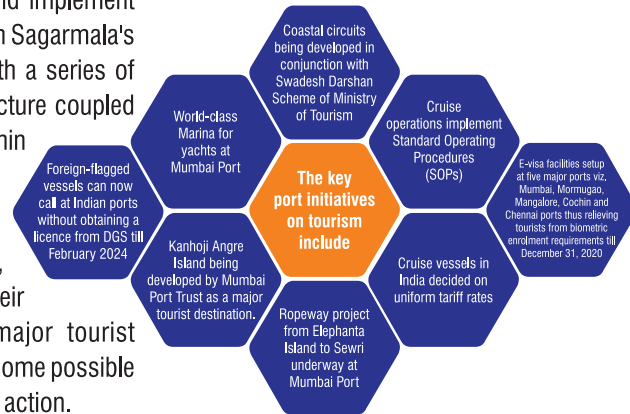
To allure both domestic and foreign tourists to the charm of India's long coastline necessitates an in-depth understanding of different patterns of coastal and maritime tourism and developing them accordingly. As coastal areas captivate tourists' interests with mesmerizing images of beaches and cliffs, the desire to be a part of the exotic Indian culture tempts foreigners to visit coastal states. India hosts the maximum number of tourists (both domestic and foreign) in many of its coastal states. Despite the country being home to many tourism destinations, current models do not allow much scope for recreation except swimming, sunbathing and boating. Numerous other coastal recreation activities like surfing, yachting, cruising and other nautical sports and hospitality facilities are missing as infrastructure and shore-based support facilities are not available.



Tourism Activities by Major Ports

Major ports in India have now come forward to design and implement schemes to promote coastal tourism. These ports, in line with Sagarmala's objectives to promote maritime tourism, have come up with a series of initiatives including putting in place the necessary infrastructure coupled with entertainment activities to attract tourists from both within the country and abroad.

As India strives to increase its foreign exchange earnings through tourism by encouraging enhancing tourist footfalls, the Indian ports have taken it upon themselves to develop their coastal regions and adjoining inland waterways as major tourist attractions. Though there is still much to be done, we look at some possible areas where we can perhaps witness and experience possible action.



Cruise Tourism

The joy is in the journey, not the destination. This is true of vacationing on a cruise ship that provides the ultimate experience of travelling in leisure. Apart from the joy of visiting the actual destination, cruise ships, with their wide range of entertainment facilities, are the ultimate destination point for travellers. Considering the untamed beauty of the forests and wildlife synonymous with India's long coastline apart from the country's rich cultural heritage, coastal states have a lot to gain by simply paying more attention to the development of coastal tourism. Amongst the salient projects is the development, operation, and maintenance of Kanhoji Angre Island as a tourist destination at a total cost of Rs 50 Cr, to be developed by Mumbai Port Trust alongwith a PPP partner. Whilst the Mumbai Port Trust will invest Rs. 7.68 Cr to develop basic infrastructure facilities at the Island, the concessionaire will be permitted to develop a resort and open area with exclusive access for ten games and sports including other outdoor activities. The selection of a concessionaire will be through a tendering process. Besides, the port is also constructing a state-of-the-art cruise terminal of international standards, having 4,00,000 sq. ft. built-up area with retail shops, cafes and other leisure and entertainment facilities, apart from serving as a terminal for international and domestic passengers. The terminal is likely to be operational this year.

The number of cruise ships calling at Indian ports has increased over the past few years increasing the number of tourists substantially. It is estimated that the number of cruise ships calling at Indian ports could increase from 138 (2017/18) to 1000 by 2023/24. Taking advantage of this potential market, International cruise operators e.g. Costa, Royal Caribbean, MSC and domestic ones e.g. Jalesh Shipping are tapping this market to attract both foreign and domestic tourists which is estimated to grow from 0.177 Mn to one million by 2023/24.

Inland Water Tourism

The focus on using inland waterways for cargo transport has raised the possibility of India investing in river tourism too. Many rivers meander through the vast landmass of peninsular India. The backwaters and lagoons of Kerala or easing your way through the mighty Ganges or sailing down the dynamic Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, they provide a mesmerizing experience of the country's varied topography and diverse cultural heritage and intermittent tourist spots dotting India's landscape. The Inland Waterways of India (IWAI) is currently looking into the activities associated with the development and regulation of the national waterways. A continued focus remains on the development of necessary infrastructure to maintain a navigable waterway, thus, enabling basic inland water transport infrastructure including fixed terminals and floating pontoons jetties.

A few river cruises are being offered by private parties along the rivers connected through the National Waterways 1, 2 and 3 offering a peek into places and people living along the banks, inspiring some of the best poetry and tales of a rustic life. In October 2019, a seven days river cruise operation on a vessel having 16 luxury rooms, has been started by Far Horizon Adventures.

After the signing of Agreement and SOP on cruise services between India and Bangladesh for the use of Protocol routes on inland waterways under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade and coastal routes as per the Coastal Shipping Agreement (from Kolkata Port to Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh), river cruises have commenced in 2019. Six initial voyages have been successfully completed by river cruises on PIWTT in 2019-20, including four voyages between Kolkata and Dhaka and two voyages between Kolkata and Guwahati through Bangladesh.



Lighthouse Tourism

This is a fairly novel concept unheard of in India. Lighthouses, also known as the beacons on the coasts of India, are a major star attraction among people living in small villages along the coasts. Determined to showcase the history of lighthouses to tourists and travellers, the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) has proposed to develop tourist destinations alongside the lighthouses as major tourist attractions. The tourist facilities would be developed to enhance & develop the existing lighthouses & its surrounding areas into a Tourism Destination, Maritime Landmark, and Heritage Precinct and to develop allied Maritime Infrastructure like National Maritime Museums & National Light house Museums.

While the old lighthouses speak a lot of the country's glorious past and its lost heritage, under the Sagarmala Programme, it is being proposed to promote lighthouses as major tourism destinations, which means that they would soon be included in both domestic and international itineraries. Till date, 13 lighthouses across the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat and Lakshadweep have been identified, with more to follow soon.

Marina for Yachts

A 300 yacht marina is being developed at Mumbai under the design, build, finance, operate and transfer model. The capital cost of the project is 357.33 Cr to be made by the concessionaire. The project will provide berthing facility in the wet basin for 200 yachts and speed boats. Space for 100 boats will be made available in the dry stack. A marina ancillary centre will house a yacht club and commercial space for leasing of space to third party.

Floating Restaurants

Though few, the floating restaurants driven by the various state tourism boards have found their niche among vacationers eager to derive the experience of dining on a barge/pontoon converted into a restaurant floating on water. We already have two of them moored near the Gateway of India and Marine Drive. South Indian coastal states are gradually warming up to the idea of introducing floating restaurants as we see an increasing number of them coming up in the backwaters of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala apart from the Puducherry coasts.

Water Sports

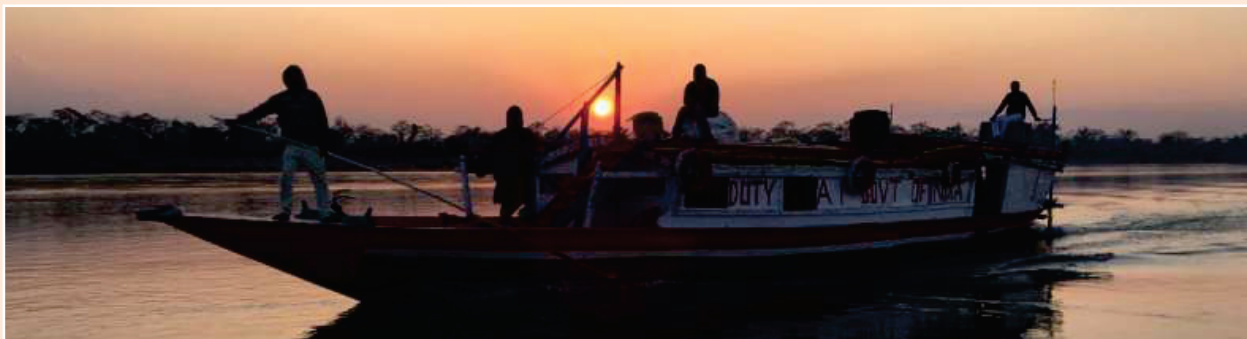
Inspired by the aquatic activities promoted on foreign shores, tourists visiting our coastal destinations are being increasingly provided several water sports facilities. Though limited to Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, tourists can choose from a wide range of nautical sports facilities like kayaking, windsurfing, canoeing, parasailing, windsurfing, water-skiing and so on. Also, infrastructural developments are being planned to encourage conventions, conferences, meetings, exhibitions and incentives by various businesses, thus, promoting increased footfall to these places.

Maritime Museum

A lot of people continue to be unfamiliar with India's rich maritime heritage. To promote greater awareness among the populace about India's contribution to trade and commerce through its seas and rivers and its long history of shipbuilding and ship repair activities, the Ministry of Shipping is developing a National Maritime Heritage Museum at the ancient Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat, which dates to the Harappan period. The foundation stone of the museum had been laid down by the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in March 2019.

The planning of the museum is at an advanced stage. Lothal was aptly chosen as the site for the museum as archaeologists discovered a lot of artefacts and ruins showcasing ancient shipbuilding and repair sites apart from the state's burgeoning trade via its seas and rivers. The discovery of the earliest known drydock of its time gives credence to the maritime heritage of India.

The project is currently being steered by the Ministry of Shipping with active support of other stakeholder 'e.g.' Archaeological Survey of India, Gujarat State Government & Gujarat Maritime Board.



Details of Completed Projects in Coastal Tourism

Sr No	Project Name	Implementing Agency	Project Cost (In Rs. Crores)
1.	Development of Kakinada Hope Island Konaseema as World Class Coastal and Eco-Tourism Circuit in Andhra Pradesh	AP Forest Department	70
2.	Floating Restaurant at Girgaum Chowpatty	Mumbai Port Trust	10
3.	2 Floating Restaurants at Gateway of India	Mumbai Port Trust	40
Total			120

Cruise Terminal

1.	Development of Cruise Berthing Facilities cum Cruise Passenger Facilitation Centre near Boat Train Pier Jetty-Cochin	Cochin Port Trust	28
2.	Development of domestic cruise terminal	Mumbai Port Trust	15
3.	Development of Cruise Passenger Facilitation Centre at Chennai Port Trust	Chennai Port Trust	18
4.	International Cruise Terminal	Cochin Port Trust	26
Total			87

Ro-Ro & Tourism Jetty

1.	Construction of Breakwater and Ramp at Mandwa	Maharashtra Maritime Board	135
2.	Capital dredging in Navigational Channel for Ro-Ro Pax Services at Mandwa	Maharashtra Maritime Board	18
3.	Dredging of RO-Pax Ferry Services between Gogha and Dahej in Gulf of Cambay	Gujarat Maritime Board	234
4.	Construction of passenger boat landing jetty at Kanhoji Angre Island	Mumbai Port Trust	14
5.	Ferry service from Baina to Panaji	Mormugao Port Trust	5
Total			406

