

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2020

1. Ports

(i) *Chintan Baithak on Major Ports* : A Chintan Baithak was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) from February 28, 2020 to March 01, 2020 at Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu) with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of all Major Ports .The meeting reviewed the progress made, strategies to further improve the Ease of Doing Business so as to attract higher investments in the Port and Maritime sector and for evolving its Vision for the next 10 years.

(ii) *Corona Virus*: In the wake of widespread Corona Virus, the status of the vessels arriving at Major Ports and screening of the crew members/passengers as per the guideline of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is being uploaded daily on e-Samiksha portal of Cabinet Secretariat. As on February 29, 2020; 234 vessels from China/ Hongkong/ Macau/ Thailand/ Singapore arrived at various major ports and 12,428 passengers/crew were scanned. Non-major ports have screened 177 vessels and 2,987 passengers/crew upto February 29, 2020.

(iii) *Vadhavan Port*: The Union Cabinet has accorded its 'in-principle' approval on February 05, 2020 for setting up a Major Port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs.65,544.54 crore. Vadhavan port will be developed on the "Landlord model". A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) as the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50% to implement the project. The SPV will develop the port infrastructure including reclamation, construction of breakwater, besides establishing connectivity to the hinterland. All business activities would be undertaken under PPP mode by private developers.

(iv) *Fire Fighting facilities at Kolkata Port (KoPT)* : DIB at its meeting held on February 27, 2020 considered the KoPT's proposal for augmentation of Fire Fighting Facilities at HOJI-I &HOJI-II, Barge Jetty-I & II and upcoming Outer Terminal II (OT-II) in EPC mode including comprehensive operation and maintenance for 10 years after defect liability period of 02 years .

(v) *India Ports Global Limited*:The Cabinetat its meeting held on February 26, 2020 approvedShipping Ministry'sproposal for the exemption from applicability of DPE guidelines to India Ports Global Limited.

(vi) *V. O. Chidambaranar Port*: On February 03, 2020, V. O. Chidambaranar Port created a new record by discharging 55,020 Metric Tonnes of Coal in 24 hours at Berth No.9 through Harbour Mobile Crane from the gearless vessel MV. Agio Sostis, surpassing the previous record of 54,512 Metric Tonnes of Coal handled in 24 hours at Berth No.9 from the vessel M.V. Pacific Victory on December 11, 2018.

(vii) *Mormugao Port*: To boost tourism through Inland Navigation, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa and Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (I/C), Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurated a Floating jetty in Goa on February 21, 2020. Mormugao Port had planned and completed this floating jetty near Captain of Ports jetty, Panaji on behalf of IWAI. Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (IC), Chemicals and Fertilizers also inaugurated the State of Art Immigration Centre situated on the Cruise Berth at Mormugao Port.

(viii) *Chennai Port*: On February 28, 2020, M.V. Scarlet Albetros carrying 76,000 Tonnes of Limestone with an arrival draft of 14 meters was berthed at the Chennai Port (Jawahar Dock 2). This is the largest Lime Stone consignment handled at Chennai Port till date.

2. Inland Water Transport

(i) *Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid (EWaCTG) Project*: The Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid (EWaCTG) Project seeking Technical Assistance of USD 70 million from the World Bank was appraised and recommended for approval by the Screening Committee of the DEA held on 18.02.2020. The objective of EWaCTG Project is to provide seamless connectivity between National Waterway-1 (NW-1) and NW-2 through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) routes, develop an economic corridor of 4200 Kms of waterways and coastal shipping for UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal and states in North Eastern Region of the country to pave way for regional integration of the five countries viz. India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar in South Asian Region.

(ii) *Movement of Over Dimension Cargo (ODC) on Ganga*: 1658.788 MT of Over Dimension Cargo (ODC) of M/s Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd. (HURL) in three Barges from Diamond Harbour to Sahibganj and Semaria was successfully carried out on National Waterway-1 (Ganga). This movement was significant as the ODC cargo moved over a distance of 900 kms without any hitch. Adequate LAD in the designated channel was maintained upto Semaria (200 kms upstream of Sahibganj) in the leanest session of February.

3. Shipping

(i) *Shipping Corporation of India*: The Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI) posted a net profit of Rs. 284.50 crore in the 3rd quarter of Financial Year 2019-20 (the highest in the last 50 quarters since quarter 4 of FY 2006-07) which offset the

losses reported in the previous quarters of FY 2019-20. A net profit of Rs. 188.60 crore was registered for the 9 months ended FY 2019-20.

(ii) *New Lighthouse at Dhanushkodi* :The Foundation stone for construction of a new Lighthouse at Dhanushkodi was laid by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (I/C). The Dhanushkodi lighthouse will be a 50mtr height tower and will help in safe navigation to mariners and local fishermen. It will also act as tourist attraction and will turn the spot into preferred destination for tourists visiting the holy town Rameswaram. New Aid to Navigation at the lighthouse will be planned depending upon future requirement for safe navigation in the area.

(iii) *Central Advisory Committee for Lighthouses*: The Central Advisory Committee for Lighthouses (CACL), set up under the Lighthouse Act 1927 considers proposals relating to establishment of new Lighthouses, Aids to Navigation, Vessel Traffic Services, addition to or alteration or removal of lighthouses, modification in rules, rates of dues etc. The 90th CACL meeting was held on 20th February, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Shipping), wherein the following important proposals were approved:

- a) Sharing of NAIS (National Automatic Identification System) Data with Central/State Government/Government Security Agencies through leased line connectivity/Web Access.
- b) Proposal for revision of lightdues so that effective impact of imposition of 18% GST is only 9% on the Shipping Industry.
- c) Examination of the issue of exemption of light dues for the coastal vessels visiting Colombo port during their transit from east to west and from west to east in India.
- d) Improvement of Lighthouse tower at Rutland Island (Andaman & Nicobar).
- e) Establishment of new Lighthouse tower at Kalvan Reef.
- f) Replacement of existing Lighthouse at Saiyad Rajpara.