

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2022

Inauguration and Foundation stone laying of projects in Vishakhapatnam

Hon'ble Minister of PS&W inaugurated skill development facility Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) at Vishakhapatnam on 23rd February under prestigious Sagarmala project to provide skilled manpower as a crucial foundation for Coastal Community Development. As part of the PM Gati Shakti programme he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several port projects in Vishakhapatnam Port on 24th February, 2022. These projects are initiatives to cut down logistics cost, improve supply chains and make local goods globally competitive in line with Maritime India Vision 2030.

Conciliation and Settlement Committee for Major Ports

Commercial dispute resolution mechanism hitherto followed through Arbitration or Courts has been found to be exceedingly time consuming and financially burdensome on commercial entities like Major Ports beset with large number of disputes. An alternate dispute resolution mechanism was set up for Major Ports in October 2021 through appointment of a Conciliation & Settlement Committee (CSC) comprising of independent experts with innovative features like fee to conciliators based on success and specified time limit of 6 months for resolution of dispute. This dispute resolution mechanism will bring finality to a dispute as the parties reach an agreement and thus do not require to further approach arbitration or court forums.

The Committee took up a commercial dispute case of Mormugao Port Authority and Roadwings International Private Limited in December 2021. The contract 'Supply, operation, Maintenance of Container handling equipment, Logistics and Yard Management at Berth No. 10 & 11 for a period of 5 years was beset with commercial disputes since start in 2018 which remained unresolved for four years. Both the parties reached a mutually acceptable settlement with the suggestion, aid and advice of the Committee which was authenticated by the conciliators on 01st March, 2022. The dispute was thus mutually resolved in 3 meeting and within 3 months of reference to CSC.

Water Taxi Service in Mumbai

Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on 17th February, 2022 virtually flagged off the Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, from Belapur Jetty. Chief Minister of Maharashtra presided over the on-ground function where he inaugurated the newly constructed Belapur Jetty. The Water Taxi service will connect the twin cities of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai for the first time. The Water Taxi services will commence from the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will also connect nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island and JNPT. The Water Taxi services are going to give huge impetus to the tourism sector, especially travel to the historic Elephanta caves from Navi Mumbai.

12th Presidential Fleet Review

On 21st February, 2022, 12th Fleet Review by Hon'ble President of India & Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces showcasing India's maritime might was held at Visakhapatnam. Two SCI owned vessels; Swarna Sindhu and SCI Sabarmati participated in Presidential Fleet Review along with Naval Fleet.

Inland Water Transport

MV Lal Bahadur Shashtri carrying food grains of FCI was flagged off from Patna to Pandu by Hon'ble Minister of MoPSW & Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on 5th February, 2022. The vessel will cover a distance of 2350 KM through NW-1, Indo Bangladesh Protocol route and NW-2. In order to promote the use of IWT, Hon'ble Minister of PS&W also flagged off MV Ram Prasad Bismil with Dumb Barge APJ Abdul Kalam & Kalpana Chawla loaded with 1798.27 MT of rime TMT Bars of M/s. Tata Steel Limited on 16th February, 2022 at Haldia Dock Complex. The Cargo movement on National Waterways this year has surpassed the total movement of last year (83.61 MMT). 85.71million Ton has been achieved from April 2021- January 2022 as against 63.85-million-ton during last year for the same period recording 34.23% increase.