

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Major achievements for the month of July, 2021

Port sector

(i) The Mobile X-Ray Container Scanner system installed at Kamarajar Port was commissioned on 1st July, 2021. The Mobile X-Ray Container Scanner system is operated by the Container Scanner division of Chennai Customs.

(ii) Cochin Port registered the total throughput of 10.10 MMT in 2021-22 (April-July), a growth of 30.10% over the corresponding period of 2020-21, when the COVID-19 Pandemic had seriously impacted the throughput. POL throughput registered 5.92 MMT and Container throughput, 2.20 Lakh TEUs in 2021-22 (April-July), growing respectively by 30.23% and 31.65% over the corresponding period of 2020-21.

(iii) The first Coal Export Movement from N. S. Dock, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata to Khulna, Bangladesh was flagged off on 02nd July, 2021, for Rampal Power Station set up by Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Ltd., a JV between NTPC & Bangladesh Power Development Board.

(iv) Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), one of India's premier container handling ports, flagged a trial operation at the newly constructed coastal berth on 09th July, 2021. The maiden trial run commenced with the handling of ONGC's Offshore Supply Vessel (OSV) 'GREATSHIP DHRITI'.

Medical Oxygen PSA units at 'Sir T Hospital', Bhavnagar

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, and Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers, virtually inaugurated two PSA plants at Sir Takhtasinhji hospital, Bhavnagar on 12th July, 2021 in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (PS&W). Along with 2 Oxygen Generation plants of 1000 LPM capacity each, copper piping network and associated facilities like fire fighting system and automatic oxygen source changeover system were also inaugurated. Hon'ble Minister of PS&W joined the inaugural function virtually and expressed his happiness on the initiatives of Deendayal Port (DPT) to contain COVID-19 Pandemic.

VOCPT v/s. PSA-SICAL Verdict

The Supreme Court of India on 28th July, 2021 set aside the award passed by an arbitrator tribunal more than seven years ago allowing PSA-SICAL Terminals Limited to move to a revenue sharing format from a royalty sharing arrangement.

Inland Water Transport

- 3,54,839 MT Cargo moved during the month of July, 2021 using NW-1 and Inland Water Transit & Trade Route.
- A Pilot movement of LPG bullet trucks from Haldia Dock Complex, Haldia to K.P. Dock, Kolkata by IWAI Ro-Ro vessel "Shankardev" by M/s. MOLHALPG was successfully completed between 25th to 26th July, 2021.
- Ten inland vessels loaded with crushed stone chips (Bhutan's Cargo) of total weight 2312 MT sailed from Dhubri to Chilmari (Bangladesh).

Inland Vessels Bill 2021

The Inland Vessels Bill 2021 was passed in Lok Sabha on 29th July, 2021. The Bill seeks to incorporate unified law for the country, instead of separate rules framed by the States. The registration certificate under the new law will be considered valid all over the country, and separate permissions from States shall not be required. The Bill also provides for a central database for recording the details of the vessels and their crew on an electronic portal.

Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021

The Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021 has been notified and published in the Gazette of India by Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice on 2nd August, 2021 after getting the President's assent on 31st July, 2021. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on 22nd March, 2021 and by the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2021. The Act aims to replace over 90-year-old Lighthouse Act, 1927, to incorporate the global best practices, technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Marine Aids to Navigation. The new Act will facilitate harmonized and effective functioning of aids to marine navigation and Vessel Traffic Services along the Indian coastline.

Promotion of flagging of merchant ships in India

In order to achieve the objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Union Cabinet has approved a scheme to provide Rs.1624 crore over five years as subsidy to Indian Shipping companies in global tenders floated by Ministries and CPSEs for import of government cargo.

Installation of Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS)

In July 2021 installation and commissioning of Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS) has been successfully completed on board SCI's LR1 tanker, MT Swarna Sindhu, by the SCI Technical team at Colombo Dockyard. The BWTS installed is complying with all the latest requirements of IMO and USCG Regulations. M T Swarna Sindhu is the second vessel of SCI to be retrofitted with BWTS. In June, 2021, M T Swarna Kaveri, a LR1 product tanker was retrofitted with BWTS. SCI is in process of installing the Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS) on its 40 foreign going vessels in compliance with the IMO's Ballast Water Management Convention.