

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Monthly Summary for the month of August, 2024

A. Significant Achievements

1. Foundation stone laying of Vadhvan Port by Hon'ble Prime Minister

On August 30, 2024, Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Vadhvan Port, which will be developed as an all-weather Greenfield deep draft Major Port in Vadhvan, Palghar District, Maharashtra. The total project cost is **Rs. 76,220 crore** including development of core infrastructure, terminals and other commercial infrastructure in public-private partnerships (PPP) mode. The Project will create a cumulative capacity of **298 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)** per annum, including around **23.2 Million TEUs** (Twenty-foot equivalents) of container handling capacity. It is a momentous achievement because this will double the existing container handling capacity of Major Ports in one go. Also several commercial, administrative, environmental, social and technical issues which were pending for *several decades* required to be solved for the project to take off which were done successfully over the last one year.

2. International Collaboration for National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

On August 01, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Vietnam in New Delhi for collaboration for the upcoming National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Vietnam. Both countries will work together on the exchange and loan of **artifacts, replicas, paintings, archival data, and other antiquities** related to their maritime histories. In addition to artifact exchange, the collaboration will extend to sharing expertise in design, technological implementation, and maintenance.

3. Launch of SOP for GTTP by Hon'ble Union Minister-PSW to replace conventional fuel-based harbour Tugs with Green Tugs

The SOP for **Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP)** was launched by Hon'ble Minister of PSW on August 16, 2024 in New Delhi for the transition from conventional fuel-based harbour tugs to green tugs. This is in line with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2023, envisioning **reduction of the GHG emissions from port vessels of Major Ports by 30%** by the year 2030 GTTP and is a key initiative under the 'Panch Karma Sankalp'.

B. Projects and Schemes

1. Projects Completed

The project "**SCADA and Automation at Marine Oil Terminal at Jawahar Dweep and Pirpau at Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA)**" has been successfully completed at a cost of Rs. 22.57 crore. This modernized infrastructure supports better monitoring and control of oil terminal operations, ensuring more reliable and efficient handling of marine oil.

2. Projects Sanctioned/Approved

- Ministry has sanctioned the project “**Upgradation of Nagapattinam Port Infrastructure for the passenger ferry service from Nagapattinam (India) to Kankesanthurai (Sri Lanka)**” worth Rs. 10.47 crore, on August 21, 2024. It will enhance regional connectivity and trade between India and Sri Lanka by facilitating efficient passenger ferry service, apart from boosting economic opportunities and tourism in both locations.
- On August 29, 2024, the ministry conveyed approval to Deendayal Port Authority's SFC proposal for '**Development of oil Jetty No.9, 10 & 11 to handle all types of Liquid Cargo at Old Kandla on BOT Basis (PPP)**' with estimated project cost of **Rs. 632 crore**. This project is expected to add significant Liquid Cargo handling capacity in India.

3. Funds Released

The projects funded under the Sagarmala Scheme have made significant progress in the month of August, 2024. In terms of financial assistance, an amount to the tune of ~**Rs. 198 crore** has been already released in FY 2024-25 (till 31st August 2024) under Sagarmala scheme to various maritime projects. The beneficiary states include **Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Goa, Kerala, Odisha and Tamil Nadu**.

4. National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

The physical and financial progress of the project is 57.04 % (55.73% until August 2024) and 41.39 % (39.70% until August 2024) respectively. The work is being rigorously monitored at the ministry level, through weekly review meetings.

The Govt. of Gujarat is developing the requisite external infrastructure for the project.

- **Infrastructure for water supply line and water storage tank of 10 lakh litres** has been completed.
- **New 4-lane road of 1.58 kms** from Saragwala village to NMHC project site has been completed.
- **Power transmission lines laying and installation of GIS substation** has been completed.
- **4-laning of road from SH1 to Saragwala village, and Road connectivity from Saragwala village to Ahmedabad Dholera SIR Expressway** is currently under progress.
- All the tender packages for development of 6 galleries in the NMHC museum have been awarded.
- A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister of PSW on August 23, 2024 at Mumbai for expediting action on issues pertaining to other line Ministries, Govt. of Gujarat and IPRCL for timely implementation of the project.

5. Capital Expenditure of Major Ports

Capital Expenditure of Major Ports under IEBR upto August 2024 is Rs. 1,880.44 crore, i.e. 40.44% of the BE (Rs. 4,650.07 crore). This is a significant improvement of ~139% over same period last year which was Rs. 786.47 crore only.

C. Traffic, Cargo and Operations

1. Major Ports

- The traffic handled at Major Ports during the period August, 2024 has increased by **4.87 %** in the current financial year (FY 2024-25) as compared to the same period last year. It has gone up from **331.923 MMT** last year to **348.096 MMT** this year.
- On August 01,2024, in a move towards cleanliness and environmental sustainability, **2 state-of-the-art Mist Cannons** were unveiled at Paradip Port unveiled for large scale dust suppression.
- V.O. Chidambaranar Port has created a new record by handling **18,547 Tonnes** of cargo in a single day on 23.08.2024, surpassing the previous single day cargo handling record of **18,200 Tonnes** handled at bulk cargo berth NCB II on August 16, 2024.
- Chennai Port has handled a monthly traffic of **5.045 MMT** in August, reaching this milestone for the **first time in 14 years**. Further, the Port has achieved a landmark performance by handling **170,606 TEUs** (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) of container cargo in August 2024, surpassing the previous record of 153,948 TEUs set in October 2021.
- Visakhapatnam Port handled the biggest Manganese ore vessel M.V. Huahine carrying **1,99,900 Tonnes** from Gabon (LoA:299.92 meters, Beam 50.00 meters, draft 18.46 meters) at Vedanta General cargo berth (VGCB) from July 25, 2024 to August 01, 2024. Further, the port handled a record quantity of **1,60,000 Tonnes** of Crude oil at SPM on August 01, 2024 surpassing the previous best day record of **1,58,700 Tonnes** handled on May 26, 2024.
- **Bengal Middle East Express**
On August 29, 2024, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) successfully launched the **Bengal Middle East Express (BMEx)**, a new container vessel service connecting the Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) with the **Jebel Ali Port** in the UAE. The inaugural vessel, Yong Yue 11, is set to arrive at HDC during first half of September, 2024. The BMEx service will follow a **Haldia-Chittagong-Jebel Ali-Haldia** route, linking Bengal as well as Eastern-Indian industrial hub with one of the key ports in the Middle East. The BMEx service will significantly enhance exim cargo movement by **cutting transit times and costs** for regional exporters and importers.
- **Starting of Container Vessel Service between KPL and Ningbo**
MSC Shipping line has commenced a new weekly service namely OSPREY service from Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) with their first vessel M.V. MSC

SHAY berthed at Adani Ennore Container Terminal on August 21, 2024. This new service operating between Asia and Southeast India, will offer a direct route and also improve the transit time by connecting Ningbo (China) to Ennore (KPL) in 15 days.

2. Inland Waterways

- Cargo to the tune of **3.41 Lakh Tonnes** was carried on Indo Bangladesh Protocol route during the month of August, 2024.
- Work order for “**Dredging of Access Channel & Berthing areas of MMT-Haldia**” was issued to Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) on August 05, 2024. Further, Dredging Contract was also signed for **Majhaua – Ghazipur** stretch (115 km) on August 08, 2024.
- Contract for **Development of Community Jetties & Modernization** of existing jetties in Uttar Pradesh was signed between IWAI and M/s Cleghorn Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd. on August 30, 2024.

3. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and subsidiaries

- On August 12, 2024, CSL commenced commercial operations at International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF), by successful docking the vessel ‘**HSC Parali**’ of Lakshadweep Administration.
- On August 30, 2024, CSL delivered one no. of **Electric Hybrid 100 Pax Vessel** to Kochi Metro (KMRL).
- On August 16, 2024, **keel laying** of 1 no. of **Electric Hybrid Catamaran Vessel** being built for Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was held at Hooghly CSL.

4. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)

Resumption of International Passenger Ferry Service (India and Sri - Lanka)

On 16.08.2024, the ferry service between Nagapattinam (India) and Kankesanthurai (Sri Lanka) was successfully restarted after regular monitoring and coordination at the ministry level. This was done through acquisition of a vessel, dry-docking, repair by another ferry operator followed by final sea-trials, surveys, audits, route operation and type rating certification by DGS. Presently, this ferry service is being operated thrice a week. It will enhance regional connectivity and tourism in both locations.

D. HRD and Governance

1. Formation of Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SCI in GIFT CITY

Subsequent to receipt of approval of all competent authorities including Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), SCI’s wholly owned subsidiary was successfully incorporated as ‘**SCI BHARAT IFSC LIMITED**’ on August 12, 2024 with its 1st Board Meeting held on August 16, 2024. It is currently in the process of **obtaining Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) and International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) registration** to commence business. The Company has received Letter of Approval (LOA) on August 31, 2024 from Office of Development

Commissioner, Kandla Special Economic Zone, for the establishment of a unit at GIFT SEZ LTD [SEZ] in Gujarat for undertaking authorized operations.

2. Wage Structure Revision for Workers of Major Ports

On August 28, 2024, in a major breakthrough signalling the fruitful completion of talks a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Bipartite Wage Negotiation Committee (BWNC) and the Indian Ports Association (IPA). The MoU facilitates the **revision of the wage structure** and addresses other service conditions, including pensionary benefits. The new pay scales, effective from January 01, 2022, will be formulated according to existing practices.

E. Inspections, Events and Campaigns

1. Review of Key Development Projects and Inauguration of various Welfare Initiatives at DPA

On August 14, 2024, I took a comprehensive review of ongoing projects and operational efficiencies at Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Gujarat through physical site visits and several meetings, as under:

- Inspection of **New Oil Jetty No. 8** at DPA: The existing oil jetties at Old Kandla are nearing full utilization. In this respect, DPA is Developing the “Oil Jetty No. 08 at Old Kandla” which will increase its capacity to handle POL and LPG products, with an optimal capacity of **3.50 MMTPA**. The jetty is being developed at a revised project cost of **Rs. 225.85 crore**.
- A joint meeting was held with stakeholders, including the **Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI)**, to address critical developmental issues. The GCCCI delegation actively participated, presented a comprehensive memorandum with 11 key points aimed at fostering the growth and efficiency of DPA.
- To enhance the welfare and working conditions of labourers, a new **Labour Amenity Centre** was inaugurated within the Cargo Jetty Area at the DPA. This facility, established under the CSR initiative, aims to provide essential amenities and a better working environment for the labour force engaged at the port.
- To enhance mobility and accessibility for the **differently-abled and underprivileged**, **five buses/vans** were handed over at the Administrative Office Building Complex of DPA, Kandla. These vehicles, procured at a total cost of **Rs.105.14 lakhs** through the CSR funds of DPA, will be utilized by various organizations dedicated to the welfare of Divyangjans and community services.

2. Major Sustainability Drive at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Mumbai

The Hon’ble Minister of PSW unveiled major sustainable initiatives after inaugurating **Three Freshwater Lakes** at JNPA on August 22, 2024. All these lakes were rejuvenated and beautified which will serve as **vital reservoirs for rainwater harvesting** and habitat restoration. Further, he reviewed various port infrastructure and

developmental projects and also attended the MoU signing ceremony among the JNPA, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Vadhvan Port for **increased infrastructure investments**, apart from attending the MoU signing between JNPA and Gateway Terminal India (GTI) towards increased **investments for sustainable initiatives**.

3. First National Space Day

On August 23, 2024, Hon'ble Minister of PSW visited **Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Powai**, a leading institution dedicated to imparting benchmark training in the maritime field for more than three decades. During the visit, he interacted with the key officials of SCI, SCILAL, DGS, IRS and other stakeholders from Industry. Further, he also interacted with the young cadets of MTI, Powai and celebrated the **First National Space Day** highlighting India's proud achievement of becoming the fourth country to land on the moon and the first to reach its southern polar region on August 23, 2023.
