

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Monthly Summary for the month of January 2026

- Hon'ble Prime Minister, launched 50-passenger Hybrid Electric Aluminium Catamaran in Kolkata on 18.01.2026 marking a major milestone in sustainable inland water transport. Hon'ble Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the extended port gate system at Balagarh including IWT terminal and road over-bridge in West Bengal on 18.01.2026
- Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated the capacity augmentation works of Vizhinjam International Seaport at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 24.01.2026 in the presence of Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala.
- International MoU for development of National Maritime Heritage Complex was signed with German Maritime Museum – Leibniz Institute of Maritime History, Bremerhaven on 12.01.2026 during the visit of German Chancellor to Ahmadabad.
- The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel INSV Kaundinya arrived in Muscat, capital of Oman after successfully completing its maiden voyage from Porbandar, marking a significant moment in the shared maritime heritage of India and Oman. The ship along with the crew were received by the Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal at Port Sultan Qaboos on 14.01.2026.
- In the presence of Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma and Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd (APL) signed an MoU with Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) on 29.01.2026, to establish a 150 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) e-Methanol plant at Kandla Port in Gujarat, marking a significant step toward India's clean energy and green shipping transition.
- Third Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) meeting was organised on 21.01.2026 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister of PSW, at Kochi, Kerala. IWDC 3.0 identified projects worth more than ₹1,500 crore, aimed at accelerating green mobility, strengthening multimodal logistics and promoting river-led economic development. Foundation stones were laid for projects exceeding ₹150 crore, including river cruise jetties in Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha and Telangana.
- Ship Building Financial Assistance Scheme portal went live on 16.01.2026 and Ship Building Development Scheme portal went live on 23.01.2026. This will facilitate early submission of applications by the stakeholders and early processing of the same.
- Polestar Maritime Limited on 29.01.2026 has placed an order for 2 nos. of 60 T Bollard Pull Battery-Electric Green Tugs on Cochin Shipyard Limited. Polestar Maritime is a major player in the niche market of harbour tugs, coastal towing & assistance and marine services at ports.
- Board of Directors of Cochin Shipyard Limited approved the proposal for acquisition of 23% equity shares of Conoship International Holding B.V. (Conoship), Netherlands with the objective of establishing a footprint in the European market through access to European ship design capabilities.
- The Ministry hosted 3rd edition of Indian Lighthouse Festival at Visakhapatnam on 9–10 January 2026 for promotion of Lighthouse tourism which was inaugurated by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Hon'ble Vice President of India along with Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The festival featured art and craft exhibitions, cultural performances, food stalls, night illumination of the lighthouse, and lighthouse tourism branding activities.
