

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Major achievements for the month of September, 2023

A. Projects and Schemes

• **Projects Completed**

• **Capacity Expansion at Vishakhapatnam Port**

Projects worth Rs. 216.53 crores were dedicated to the Nation by the Union Minister of PSW & A, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. These include the state-of-the-art Vizag International Cruise Terminal (VICT), Covered Storage Shed-2, a World Class Truck parking terminal as well as Oil refinery berth that will boost the capacity of the Visakhapatnam Port.

• **Projects at Jawaharlal Nehru Port**

Evacuation road for container terminal & 330 m extension to DPW terminal have been completed at a cost of Rs. 98.24 Cr to help in faster evacuation of containerized cargo at DPW terminal resulting in reduced Turn-Around-Time.

• **Pandu Multimodal Port**

Operation & Maintenance of the terminal of the IWAI Pandu Multimodal Port was taken over by PPP Operator M/s A to Z Exim on 05.09.2023 at Guwahati.

• **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)**

The physical and financial progress of the project is 44.63% (40.15% until August 2023) and 30% (24.9% until August 2023) respectively. The work is continuously being followed up and monitored during weekly review meetings. The Government of Gujarat is developing the requisite external infrastructure of the project. Power supply (3.5 kms work) in package 1 has been completed.

B. Operations, Cargo and Traffic

• **Ports Performance**

The traffic handled at Major Ports during the period April, 2023 to September, 2023 has increased by 2.35% in the current financial year (FY 2023-24) as compared to the same period last year. It has gone up from 384.69 million Tonnes last year to 393.73 million Tonnes this year.

- Major Ports have registered significant improvements in Key Performance Indicators –
 - Average Output per Ship Berthday has increased by 9.18%;
 - Turnaround Time (TRT) has improved by 9.09%;
 - Percentage of idle time has reduced by 23.81%;
 - Average Pre-Berthing Time has reduced by 58.61%.

- **Cargo movement through Inland Waterways**

During the period April, 2023 to September, 2023 cargo of 64.25 MMT moved through Waterways as compared to 60.25 MMT during April to September, 2022 i.e. an increase of 6.64%.

- **V.O. Chidambarnar Port, Tuticorin**

- On 24.09.2023, Port successfully handled the first shipment of 3x20 ISO Green Ammonia Containers, weighing 37.4 tonnes, from Damietta Port, Egypt, for M/s. Tuticorin Alkali Chemical and Fertilizers Ltd (TFL). Conventionally, Grey Ammonia is utilized for Soda Ash production. As a Go Green initiative, TFL has imported Green ammonia to produce Green Soda Ash, on a trial basis. Further, TFL has planned to import 2000 MT this year subject to the availability of Green Ammonia.
- On 23.09.2023, Port created a **new cargo handling record** by handling 2,01,204 MT in a single day surpassing the earlier single day record of 2,00,642 MT on 26.08.2023.

- **Biggest Naphtha Tanker Handled at SM Port, Kolkata**

On 14.09.2023 ‘M.T. CLEAROCEAN AJAX’, with parcel load of 48,111 MT carrying Naphtha, (a/c HPL) was anchored at HOJ-III of HDC. It was the first time SMP Kolkata handled such a big tanker.

- **Operation of 6 electric catamaran vessels**

An MoU between IWAI and UP Tourism was signed in the presence of Union Minister of PSW & A, for operation of 6 electric catamaran vessels at Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Mathura using Inland Water transport on 25.09.2023 at Varanasi.

- **Green Hydrogen hub in Kolkata**

- On 27.09.23, Green Hydrogen NGEL, the green energy subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, signed a pact with SMP, Kolkata for the development of a Green Hydrogen hub in Kolkata.
- SMP, Kolkata and Saif Powertec Ltd, Bangladesh (SPL) joined hands for time and cost-efficient, collaborative solution by signing an MoU on 25.09.2023 to establish a **new multimodal transport route for Container movement** between India and Bangladesh. The containerized liner service sector will foster trade and shipment between Bangladesh and India through Mongla and Chattogram Sea Ports, as well as Pangoan River Port of Bangladesh.

C. **HRD and Governance**

- **Sea farers welfare**

A grievance redressal system for the Sea farers has been put in place for quicker response along with a Crisis Management Group notified to address any contingencies, the MT Advantage Sweet success was largely due to the coordination by the Crisis Management Group using this system.

- **IT and Examination Reforms**

Sanction was accorded for E-Governance and end-to-end computerization including conduct of online examinations of the Directorate General of Shipping.

D. **Significant Achievements and milestones**

- A team from the Ministry along with MEA and the Indian embassy at Iran **finalised the Agreement for successfully operating the Chhabahar port in Iran**. This matter that was pending for several years due to disagreements on specific clauses in the agreement was finally resolved through extensive consultations over a period of two days.
- **Repatriation of 23 sea farers** from vessel MT ‘Advantage Sweet’ after 6 months of being stuck on board from Iran was accomplished after continuous efforts and dialogue with the Iranian Authorities and the assistance of MEA.

- **Cochin Shipyard Limited**

- CSL was honoured with meritorious PMA National Award 2023 in the category of 'Project Excellence' for the remarkable feat of construction of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (INS Vikrant), India's largest warship.
- Further, during the month of September, 2023 CSL delivered three more Electric Hybrid 100 Pax Water Metro boats to Kochi Metro.

E. Events and Campaigns

- **Swachta Campaign 3.0**

Steps were taken throughout September to implement the Special Campaign 3.0 during 02-31st October, 2023 for institutionalizing cleanliness and minimizing pendency. Subordinate/attached offices have been directed to actively participate in the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM). Special attention will be given to field/outstation offices in addition to the Ministry and attached/ subordinate offices. I participated in the campaigns that were conducted in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and administered Swachta Pledge to the employees.

- **PM Vishwakarma Yojna**

The Union Minister of PSW & A, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal joined the Prime Minister virtually in the launch of PM Vishwakarma Yojana from Guwahati.

- **Eastern Economic Forum, 2023**

The Union Minister of PSW & A, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal met with the Minister of the Russian Federation for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic, Mr. A.O. Chekunkov in Vladivostok, Russia on 13.09.2023. During the meeting, both the leaders discussed wide range of items of maritime communication between India and Russia to widen maritime cooperation including possibility of usage of new transport corridors like the Northern Sea Route (NSR) as well as the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) between Vladivostok and Chennai. It was also decided that India and Russia would train Indian seafarers in Polar and Arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute.

- **Global India Maritime Summit (GMIS), 2023: Road shows.**

- As a prelude to the GMIS 2023, a road show was conducted at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai on 04.09.2023 by Chennai Port Authority in coordination with V.O.C. Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Limited in the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of PSW & A and Shri E.V. Velu, Minister for Government of Tamil Nadu to highlight the importance of the event to the Stakeholders and Users.
- Roadshow for Global Maritime India Summit 2023 was organised at Varanasi on 25.09.2023 in the presence of Union Minister of PSW & A. Delegates from other Central and State Government Departments as well as Stakeholders participated.
- At least 5 GMIS promotional events held for preparations for GMIS 2023 at Mumbai from 17th to 19th September by DG (Shipping)

- **Hindi Fortnight**

In accordance with the Official Language Policy, Hindi Fortnight was organized in the Ministry this year also from September 14, 2023 to September 29, 2023. Additionally, the Ministry participated in the 3rd All India Official Language Conference organized at Pune during 14-15 September, 2023 by Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

- **World Maritime Day** was suitably observed with the theme of Marpol @ 50 Years on 28th September.

- **First Indian Lighthouse Festival**

The first Indian Lighthouse Festival was celebrated at the Fort Aguada, Goa during 23-25th September, 2023 and at Chennai on 25th September, 2023 by the Ministry. The session at Goa was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of PSW & A, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Pramod Sawant, the Hon'ble Minister of State for PSW and Tourism, Shri Shripad Naik and other senior officials from the MoPSW. The objectives of this festival are preservation of maritime heritage, promotion of Tourism, cultural awareness, community engagement, Tourism diversification, sustainable development of coastal areas, National and International recognition of lighthouses. This festival showcased the unique cultural diversity of India's coastal regions and aims to strengthen the bond between maritime culture and contemporary living. The Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed his happiness on the organization of the first Indian Lighthouse Festival through a tweet.
