

# Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

## Major Achievements for the month of February, 2024

### A. Significant Achievements and Milestones

#### 1. Hon'ble Prime Minister Unveiled Various Projects of the Ministry from Tuticorin

On February 28, 2024, a diverse array of projects was unveiled worth Rs. 10,324 Crores. Key highlights include the following:

- **Outer Harbour Container Terminal project** at VOC Port positioning it as the Transshipment Hub on the East Coast which was long awaited.
- Dedication of the development of **'Tourism facilities at 75 lighthouses'**.
- Flagged off **India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell vessel** built by CSL
- Showcased VOC Port as **India's first hydrogen hub port**.

#### 2. Gati Shakti Research Chair at IIM Shillong

Established on 23.02.2024 to foster academic research and multimodal logistics development, especially focusing on the Northeast region.

#### 3. Flagging off Cargo Vessel on new Indo-Bangla route from Maia Port

On February 12, 2024, the Maia Riverine Port was inaugurated, along with the flagging off of the IWT Vessel M.B. Desh Bangla, carrying stone chips to Sultanganj through a new trade route that will shorten NER connectivity through waterways by 900 Kms. This event not only signifies enhanced bilateral cooperation but also aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Act East Policy, aiming to bolster regional connectivity and economic development.

#### 4. Kalughat IWT Terminal

The Kalughat IWT Terminal was inaugurated on February 15, 2024, by Hon'ble Minister for PSW and Ayush, Shri, Sarabananda Sonowal. It is located on the north bank of the River Ganga and represents a critical step towards improving Inland Waterways' connectivity. It promises to facilitate easier trade, especially for Nepal-bound shipments and the hinterland of North Bihar. This terminal is expected to serve as a pivotal cargo movement link due to its strategic location and direct access to NH-19.

#### 5. Inauguration of Several Projects in North East

A series of infrastructure projects worth more than Rs. 300 crores were unveiled on February 20, 2024, by Hon'ble Minister for PSW and Ayush, Shri. Sarabananda Sonowal, aimed at enhancing the Inland Water Transport

(IWT) facilities in the North East. These projects include new terminals, jetty renovations, and the announcement of upcoming initiatives focused on boosting passenger and cargo movement, alongside promoting tourism in this region.

#### **6. Hon'ble Prime Minister Inaugurated Various Green Waterway Initiatives in Varanasi**

On February 23, 2024, the Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicated two hybrid electric catamaran vessels to the nation. These vessels, designed to operate on the River Saryu in Ayodhya and the River Ganga in Varanasi, are a testament to India's commitment to sustainable transport solutions. Powered by fast-charging batteries, they aim to significantly reduce carbon emissions while supporting religious tourism.

7. **Awards and Recognitions:** The Shipping Corporation of India received the "First Place for Best Enterprise Award" for excellence in public enterprise management, and the CMD of SCI was awarded CEO of the Year - PSU' at the 22nd Business Leader of the Year Awards 2024.

### **B. Projects and Schemes**

#### **1. Approved Projects**

- **Coastal Skill Development Program Phase II:** Projects in Karnataka and Odisha, aimed at training candidates in tourism, construction, and logistics, have been sanctioned with financial assistance, marking significant steps towards skill development in coastal regions.
- **Dry Dock and Ship Repair Yard at Mormugao Port:** A project set to develop dry dock and ship repairing facilities, with a project cost of Rs.984 Crore, aims to enhance ship repair capabilities on the western coast.
- **Re-Construction and Mechanization at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata:** The approval of a Rs.809.18 Crore project for berth reconstruction and mechanization highlights the ongoing efforts to modernize port infrastructure.

#### **2. National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)**

- The NMHC project has seen the awarding of tender packages for the development of its first 6 galleries, including significant partnerships, such as the MoU signed with the UAE and is progressing well.

#### **3. Funds Released**

- In the month of February 2024, funds to a tune of Rs. 42.87 Cr. were released for projects under Sagarmala including the development of Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax ferry services in Gujarat for greener urban travel, enhancement of Port facilities in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to increase cargo handling capacity and safety measures, and the

introduction of environment friendly Ro-Ro facilities in Cochin for cleaner cargo transport. Additionally, the automation of operations at Mumbai's Marine Oil Terminal aims to optimize efficiency and reduce operational costs.

## C. Operations, Cargo, and Traffic

### 1. Port Performance

- The performance of Major Ports has shown significant improvement in various operational parameters during the current financial year (April 2023 - February 2024) compared to the same period last year.

S.No.	Operational Parameter	Performance during current FY (Apr 23-Feb 24)	Performance during Last Year (Apr 22-Feb 23)	Improvement registered this year
1.	Cargo handled	745 MT	712 MT	4.5%
2.	Output per Ship per day on berth	18829 tonnes	17377tonnes	7.2%
3.	Turn Around Time	48.22 Hrs.	50.38 Hrs.	4.1%
4.	Vessels handled	21143 Nos.	19937 Nos.	6%
5.	Idling on Berth (% of total time on berth)	16%	21%	23.8%
6.	Pre Berthing Detention of Vessels	5.62 Hrs.	10.88 Hrs.	53.2%

The highlights of these improvements are as follows:

- Cargo Handling:** There has been an increase in cargo handled from 712 million tonnes (MT) in the previous year to 745 MT this year, marking a 4.5% improvement.
- Output per Ship per Day on Berth:** The output has risen from 17,377 tonnes to 18,829 tonnes, which is a 7.2% increase, indicating higher efficiency in cargo handling per ship.
- Turn Around Time:** The turnaround time for ships has decreased from 50.38 hours to 48.22 hours, showing a 4.1% improvement, which means ships are spending less time in port.
- Vessels Handled:** The number of vessels handled increased by 6%, from 19,937 to 21,143.
- Idling on Berth:** The percentage of time vessels idle on the berth has decreased from 21% to 16%, an improvement of 23.8%, suggesting better berth management and utilization.
- Pre-Berthing Detention of Vessels:** There's been a significant reduction in the time vessels wait before berthing, from 10.88 hours to 5.62 hours, a 53.2% decrease, indicating improved port entry efficiency.

Noteworthy achievements include:

- **The International Container Transhipment Terminal (ICTT)** at Cochin Port set a new record in February 2024 by handling 75,141 TEUs.
- **Paradip Port Authority** recorded the highest ever single-day rake handling of 79 rakes in February and managing the largest coal import cargo parcel of 1,49,481 MT.
- **Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)** achieved record handling of steel coils and the highest ever calendar month throughput of 73,43,936 MT in January.
- **VOC Port** sets a new record by handling 2,04,501 tonnes of cargo in a single day on 23.02.2024.

## 2. Capital Expenditure:

The Capital Expenditure of Major Ports under IEBR up to February 2024 is Rs.2626.16 Cr, which is 80.73% of the budget estimate (Rs. 3253.21 Cr). This marks a significant improvement from the Rs. 1780.21 Cr spent in the same period last year.

## 3. Cargo Movement through Inland Waterways:

There has been an increase in cargo movement through waterways, from 113.98 MMT in the previous year to 117.57 MMT in the current period, a 3.16% increase. Additionally, the month saw significant activity in inland water transit and trade, with 3.7 lakh MT of cargo moved, and tourist vessels carrying 2002 passengers on 42 trips.

## D. HRD and Governance

### 1. Digital Initiatives

- The **Maritime Single Window (MSW) Module** was launched on February 1, 2024, as part of the Sagar Setu platform, aiming to digitalize maritime trade processes in India. This initiative enables electronic submissions for ship-related formalities, significantly reducing waiting times by up to 40% and enhancing vessel turnaround times.

### 2. "Sagar Aankalan" Guidelines

- Introduced on February 16, 2024, the "**Sagar Aankalan**" guidelines aim to *benchmark and improve Indian Ports' Performance*. These guidelines are designed to boost logistics efficiency, align with global standards, and increase competitiveness and customer satisfaction in the port sector.

## E. Events and Campaigns

### 1. Workshop on 'Financing and Insurance Challenges' in the Shipping Sector

- The workshop on Financing and Insurance Challenges in the Shipping Sector was held on February 14, 2024 in New Delhi, focused on addressing the financial and insurance-related issues in the maritime industry. Discussions

revolved around innovative financing models, risk management strategies, ship leasing, and the establishment of a Protection and Indemnity Club in India. The event, highlighted the need for increasing India's shipbuilding capacity and Indian tonnage to elevate its global standing. Key concerns included the under-utilization of government financial assistance, the gap in long-term financing, the necessity for insurance product development for coastal shipping, and the strategic importance of green shipping. Stakeholder suggestions included long-term low-interest rate funding, Government-backed risk guarantees, and leveraging the Maritime Development Fund for sector support.

- A workshop was organised on “**Ship Building and Ship Repair**” on February 21, 2024 in New Delhi which highlighted the expected growth in the global shipbuilding market and India's ambition to enhance its shipbuilding and repair capabilities. Key points discussed include the need to increase India's shipbuilding capacity, with a current market share that is minimal compared to global leaders like China, Japan, and South Korea. Stakeholders suggested improvements in policy continuity, financing options, and training for skilled manpower. The discussion also covered the development of a centralized "Centre for Design" for vessel standardization, enhancing ship repair infrastructure, and the potential of the Indian shipbuilding market with Government support and incentives for international collaboration and technology transfer.
- On February 16, 2024, **M. Tech in Dredging Technology** Course in collaboration with IMU, IIT, Chennai and Dredging Corporation of India was launched and Report and Coffee Table Book on GMIS, 2023 were also released by Hon'ble Union Minister.

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