

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2020

1. Ports

(i) *Relief for resumption of Logistics supply chain:* Due to COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measure are facing huge challenge in maintaining their businesses due to lower trade volume as well as cash flow issues. To provide relief to support and rebuild the logistic chain, Ministry of Shipping has issued an order dated April 21, 2020 to give relief to following users during lockdown period upto May 03, 2020:

- a) Remission of charge to Port users
- b) Remission of charges to PPP concessionaire
- c) Vessel related charges from shipping lines
- d) Relief to PPP projects under Force Majeure Clause

(ii) *Guidelines on Cost escalation in PPP projects:* There are certain PPP projects in which Government approval has been conveyed to Ports to complete the project within a time frame. In order to address cases of delayed PPP projects, the Ministry has formulated guidelines issued on April 20, 2020, in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs, to resolve the cost escalation issue in delayed PPP projects to be followed by the Major Ports Authorities.

(iii) *V. O. Chidambaranar Port:* The V. O. Chidambaranar Port created a new record by unloading 55,105 tonnes of Coal in 24 hours at Berth No. 9 from the vessel “Theoder Oldendroff” on April 10, 2020, surpassing the previous record of 55,020 tonnes of coal handled at berth no. 9 from the vessel “Agio Sostic” on February 03, 2020.

(iv) *JNPT:* Jawaharlal Nehru Port handled 499 container trains during the month of April, 2020, which is highest ever trains handled during a month. The Rail coefficient during the month of April increased to 22.57% as against 14.03% in the same month of last year and 16.04% during the FY 2019-20. This achievement during the current pandemic crisis was possible due to the coordinated and conscientious efforts of all the stakeholders which include the management & workforce of all the Port terminals, Railways & Trains Operators (both CONCOR & Private).

(v) *Cargo handled at JNPT:* Overcoming the impact of COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown challenges, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, India’s premier container port registered a throughput of 2,83,802 TEUs in container handling. The import container volume of April, 2020 is 80% of the imports handled in April 2019 and overall throughput is 63% of the cargo handled during April, 2019. The exports are also picking up with the factories opening up in the hinterland due to the relaxation in the lockdown norms. JNPT handled total of 167 vessels in April 2020 and the overall turnaround time on Port account improved to 33 hrs from 39 hrs.

2. Shipping

Directorate General of Shipping: Many Seafarers are at present sailing on Indian and foreign ships with their certificates on verge of expiry. In view of the ongoing unprecedented situation, the Directorate General of Shipping vide its Order extended these certificates by a period of 6-months.

3. Inland Water Transport

(i) *Resumption of construction under JMVP:* The construction of the new navigation lock at Farakka and multimodal terminal at Haldia under the Jal Marg Vikas Project had been suspended earlier as part of containment of COVID-19. In view of the Ministry of Home Affairs, order dated April 15, 2020, after obtaining the permission of the respective District Administrations, the construction work has been re-started with local labour and skilled/unskilled manpower available in the contractor's labour camp.

(ii) *Indo Bangladesh Protocol route:* The movement of vessels on the Indo Bangladesh Protocol route between India and Bangladesh had been suspended as part of containment of COVID-19. After obtaining approval of MHA, the vessel movement resumed in the last week of April 2020 subject to compliance of SOP, approved by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Screening/checking of COVID-19 for vessel crew had been arranged at Kolkata, Hemnagar LCS, Budge-Budge, Haldia fly ash Jetty and Kolkata Jetty.