

MoS inaugurates Ease of Doing Business-Implementation of RFID-based Port Access Control System

In a review meeting held with the Kolkata Port officials, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Shipping and Chemicals and Fertilizers flagged off the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) based Port Access Control System (PACS) at Kolkata Dock System (KDS) under the "Ease of Doing Business" scheme. The Minister also inaugurated the CCTV operations at KDS, Rabindra Setu (Howrah Bridge) apart from dedicating three truck parking terminals at KDS. Shri Mandaviya also planted a sapling in the premises of the port as a part of the Green Wall Project.

To ensure greater security and systematic entry and exit of vehicles and visitors in Kolkata Dock System (NSD and KPD) and for ease of doing business with Port users, the project of RFID-based Port Access Control System (PACS) was undertaken for Kolkata Dock System (Netaji Subhas Dock, NSD and Kidderpore Dock, KPD) at a total cost of around Rs. 17 crores. Under this project, the 12 gates of NSD and KPD are equipped with RFID-based PACS system. This system will enable a single-window system to the port users for obtaining permit via cashless transactions. The operational efficiency of KDS is expected to increase owing to the system driven gate operation. To ease road congestion in areas near the port, roughly 30,000 square metres of the port's land has been developed at Sonai, Coal Dock Road and Bhutgat into three truck parking terminals at a cost of nearly Rs. 6 crores. These truck terminals are expected to cater approximately 400 trucks or trailers in the future.



MoS visits Kolkata Port

Apart from inspecting the CCTV control room, the Minister also inaugurated the Riverfront Tourism Development while encouraging the KoPT officials to promote riverfront tourism in Kolkata. Stressing on the port's proximity with the city, Shri Mandaviya expresses how port development is essential to creating employment and inducing transport synergy.



Mrs. H.K. Joshi Addresses SCI Cadets

SCI celebrates its 59th Foundation Day

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) turned 59 on October 02, 2019. To mark the occasion, a cultural cum facilitation event was organised by the SCI. Employees who had completed 25 years of service with the SCI were also felicitated by board members and directors of the organization. The 59th Foundation Day also coincided with the culmination of the Swachhata Pakwada at the organization. To mark the success of the mega cleanliness drive undertaken at the office, various competitions like the cleanest floor, poster making and slogan writing were carried out. Cadets of the SCI Maritime Training Institute also presented a skit "Swachhta Hi Sewa" to spread the message of cleanliness among the organisation's employees.

IPA wins Seatrade Maritime Awards 2019

The Indian Ports Association (IPA) bagged the Indian Subcontinental Maritime Award at the Seatrade Maritime Awards Middle East, Indian Subcontinent & Africa 2019 organized at Dubai, UAE on September 22, 2019. The prestigious award was received by Dr Abhijit Singh, Executive Director, IPA on behalf of the organisation.



Indian Ports Association gets Recognised for its Efforts



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya reviews Paradip Port operations

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (I/c), Chemicals & Fertilisers visited the Paradip Port on October 16, 2019 to inspect the port and its operations. The Minister also interacted with port users and stakeholders, urging them to focus on promoting Coastal shipping. Whilst interacting with officials of IDCO and IOCL, the Minister stressed on adopting a collaborative approach to ensure the overall development of the port and its surrounding region.



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya at Paradip Port

Subsequently, the Minister participated in several community related events which included plantation drive organised by the port officials, distribution of eco-friendly cotton bags to the people living in the nearby coastal regions. and took part in a cycle rally arranged by the port officials to spread the message of "Swachhta Hi Sewa" and "Fit India Movement".

Boom in cruise tourism at Mumbai Port

On November 18, 2019, four cruise ships berthed at Mumbai Port in line with the cruise shipping promotion initiatives taken by the Ministry of Shipping. The four ships included "Mein Schiff 6" carrying 2500 passengers on board, "Karnika" with 800 passengers on board, "Silver Spirit" with 750 tourists arrived from Muscat and "Angriya" with 124 tourists arrived from Goa. An equally large number of tourists were expected to embark these ships for their outbound voyages.

To keep up with the increasing number of tourists travelling on



Boom in Cruise Tourism at Mumbai Port

cruise ships, the Mumbai Port is coming up with a state-of-the-art cruise terminal built on international standards. The terminal measuring 4,00,000 square feet will be complete with retails, a café, shops and other leisure provisions besides being designed to accommodate both domestic and international passengers. The terminal is likely to be operational from June / July 2020.

First ever container movement of cargo on NW-2



Secretary, Ministry of Shipping Flags Off Cargo from Haldia to Pandu

The first ever container movement of cargo on National Waterway-2 (Brahmaputra) with Pandu in Assam as its destination, originating on National Waterway-1 (Ganga) and moving through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route commenced on 4th November, 2019 from Haldia Dock Complex. 48 containers of edible oil, petro-chemical and beverage of Adani Wilmar were transported on cargo vessel MV Maheshwari. In addition, two vessels loaded with imported coal of M/s Star Cement moved along with the container cargo.



India & Bangladesh hold Secretary-level meetings to discuss shipping and inland water transport

The increased use of waterways connectivity for cargo transport was the focus at the three meetings held by India and Bangladesh at Dhaka from December 04 to December 05, 2019. The Shipping Secretary-level talks (SSLT), 20th meeting of the Standing Committee of Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) and Inter-governmental Committee on Use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports included discussions about opening new avenues for economic opportunities for the people living in both the countries.

At the meetings led by Shri Gopal Krishna Secretary, Shipping Govt. of India and his Bangladesh counterpart Shri Md. Abdus Samad, both the countries agreed to start trial runs from January 2020 for movement of Indian transit cargo for North East Region (NER) through Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh. The proposed trial runs would help identify operational issues on the cargo movement through the alternative route.

During the meeting held to boost the use of inland waterways between the two countries, both sides agreed to introduce trade between Chilmari (Bangladesh) and Dhubri (India) route of PIWTT by shallow draft mechanised vessels. However, these vessels must be registered under the Inland Shipping Ordinance 1976 of Bangladesh or Inland Vessel Act, 1917 of India as per the provisions of Article 1.3 of PIWTT and conform to safety requirements. Additionally, an agreement was reached to declare Jogighopa in India and Bahadurabad in Bangladesh as new ports of call under the PIWTT.

The inclusion of the Ichamati river (National Waterway -44) as a new route under PIWTT, was also discussed and both sides agreed to constitute a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) along with technical experts to undertake a hydrographic survey for studying the technical feasibility of navigation on the proposed route.

During the meeting held on December 05, 2019, the Indian side informed Bangladesh that Ashuganj in Bangladesh is the only port of call with transshipment arrangement under PIWTT for movement of Indian transit cargo to and from Tripura. However, Ashuganj Port lacks container handling facilities and transit sheds. The Indian side proposed to allow Summit Alliance Port Ltd (SAPL), Muktarpur and Pangaon which are close to Tripura, as a transshipment port for the movement of transit goods to Tripura (Akhaura and Sonamura ICPs) through waterways. Bangladesh agreed to examine the proposal after carrying out necessary consultations with its stakeholders.



Secretary of Shipping, India and Bangladesh at the conclusion of SSLT

During the meeting, it was also agreed that a composite team from Bangladesh comprising of experts from business and technical fields shall visit Haldia/Kolkata ports as well as Krishnapatnam/Vishakapatnam/Chennai to ascertain technical feasibility and commercial viability of third-country cargo under PIWTT and coastal routes. This was done to facilitate third-country EXIM trade through PIWTT and coastal shipping route.

Under coastal shipping agreement, between the two countries, three more ports on the Indian east coast, namely Dhamra, Ennore and Tuticorin and two ports of Bangladesh namely Cox Bazar and Muktarpur have been declared as ports of call.

In the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Committee, both the parties agreed to include Nakugaon land Port of Bangladesh and Dalu Land Customs Station of India as additional entry and exit points. This development would increase the number of routes for the transportation of goods to and from NER using Chattogram and Mongla ports from four to five. Both sides also discussed the administrative fee to be charged by Bangladesh for movement of Indian transit goods and Bangladesh agreed to furnish a proposal in this regard.



Shipping Secretary Level Talks in Bangladesh



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates “BIMSTEC Ports’ Conclave” at Visakhapatnam



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya at “BIMSTEC Ports’ Conclave”

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/c) for Shipping, inaugurated the first-ever “BIMSTEC Ports’ Conclave” organised at Visakhapatnam from November 07-08, 2019.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), an international grouping comprises Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal. Senior officials from various ports and shipping associations of member countries participated in the two-day conclave. At the Conclave, the participants put forward their respective country’s perspective on BIMSTEC and regional ports.

Participating nations explored the possibility of increasing economic cooperation by enhancing EXIM trade and coastal shipping opportunities. Besides myriad investment opportunities, innovative ways to increase productivity, coupled with port safety techniques were also discussed at the seven nations’ meet.

During the conclave, discussions were held on “Port-led Industrial and Tourism Development”, “Emergent Roles of Ports in the Global Supply Chain”, “Ports Services: Delivering Value”, “Green Port Operations” culminating with discussions about the need for ports to adopt a sustainable operations model in the light of the Paris Accord that was signed to mitigate climate change.

During the summit, three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between Ranong Port of Port Authority of Thailand and the Port Trusts of Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata, to boost connectivity between ports on Thailand’s West Coast and ports on India’s East Coast, thus, lending a fillip to the country’s Act East Policy.

India re-elected to the Council of IMO

Elections to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council were held at its headquarters in London on 29th November 2019. Having been an important member of the council since 1959, the Ministry took active measures to ensure India’s successful re-entry into the IMO Council under Category ‘B’ for the period 2020-21. The Council is the executive organ of IMO and is responsible, under the Assembly, for supervising the work of the organisation. Between sessions of the Assembly, the Council performs all the functions of the Assembly, except that of making recommendations to governments on maritime safety and pollution prevention.

With huge support from member nations, India won the election with 143 votes and was re-elected to the Council as a Category ‘B’ member. Members of Council of the IMO are elected under three categories, i.e., A – nations having largest interest in providing international shipping services, B - the largest interest in international seaborne trade and C – nations which have special interests in maritime transport or navigation and whose election to the Council will ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world.

With a view to garner support for India’s candidature, Shri Gopal Krishna, Secretary Shipping led a team of high ranking officials for the conference at London.

Secretary Shipping also took the opportunity to present the instrument of accession to the Hong Kong Convention to the Secretary General of IMO, Kitack Lim during the 31st Session of the IMO Assembly.



Secretary Shipping handing over the document of accession to the Hong Kong Convention to the Secy General of IMO

