



समृद्धिं कुरुते
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Government of India



THE SAGARMALA POST

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021



SPOTLIGHT



EVENTS DETOUR



MARITIME GLORY

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MARITIME GLORY

- A Temple That Served as A Lighthouse

Published by the Editorial Board of The Sagarmala Post

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From the **SECRETARY'S DESK**



Every Vision, Every Goal and Every Objective requires a proper planning and strategy to move ahead. Over the past few years, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has worked persistently towards making India the 'Maritime Hub' of the world. All the efforts put in by our hard-working team are being finally fulfilled.

With great happiness, I would like to inform our dear readers that Major Ports Authority Bill 2020 was passed in Rajya Sabha. The Act would facilitate faster and transparent decision making benefiting the stakeholders and better project execution capability. This will also help in bringing transparency in operations of Major Ports and empower Major Ports to perform with greater efficiency on account of full autonomy in decision making and by modernizing the institutional framework of Major Ports.

Moving with the key mantra of 'Reform, Perform & Transform', Hon'ble Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a three-day Ports Review Meeting named 'Chintan Baithak' in Dhordo, Kutch, Gujarat (from 21st- 23rd January 2021) for finalizing the roadmap of Maritime Vision-2030 . Discussion revolved around opening more new routes for RO - RO, RO-Pax ferry and Seaplane services across the nation and on ways and means of increasing volume & movement of Coastal Cargo.

Expression of interest was issued for Sagarmala Seaplane Services to improve connectivity across the

nation and make India an attractive destination for the tourists. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has invited comments on the draft of the Dredging Guidelines for Major Ports which have been prepared in consultation with various stakeholders.

Fulfilling India's shared commitment towards prosperity and trade with Central Asia through seamless maritime connectivity, India has supplied a consignment of two Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) to Iran's Chabahar port, with a total contract value of over 25 million dollars under the contract agreement for supply of 6 MHC.

Our Ministry issued guidelines for floating structures, with a vision to set up world-class floating infrastructure all along the coastline. MoUs was signed between CSL, DCI and largest dredger maker of the world, Royal IHC Holland BV. MoU for transportation of LPG through barges on NWS-1 and NWS-2 waterways was signed between IWAI and MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte. Ltd

The destiny of New India in the 21st century will be shaped by India's maritime sector and I wish my readers once again, 'A very Happy New Year'. May the ship of Team MoPSW sail to unprecedented heights of success and prosperity in 2021.

Sanjeev Ranjan

Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways





Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways kicks off ambitious Project of Sagarmala Seaplane Services (SSPS) with potential airline operators

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways will be commencing operations of Seaplane services, on the select routes, under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework through prospective airline operators.

Several destinations have already been identified for seaplane operations. The proposed Origin-Destination pairs under Hub and Spoke model include various islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep, Guwahati Riverfront & Umranso Reservoir in Assam, Yamuna Riverfront / Delhi (as Hub) to Ayodhya, Tehri, Srinagar (Uttarakhand), Chandigarh and many other tourist places of Punjab & HP; Mumbai (as Hub) to Shirdi, Lonavala, Ganpatipule; Surat (as Hub) to Dwarka, Mandvi & Kandla; Khindsi Dam, Nagpur & Erai Dam, Chandrapur (in Maharashtra) and/or any other Hub & Spoke suggested by the Operator.

The joint development and operation of Sagarmala Seaplane Services (SSPS) will be undertaken by forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL) in the coastal areas or proximity to water bodies. Sagarmala Seaplanes will provide a supplementary means of

Ministry Seeks Feedback on the Draft of Dredging Guidelines of Major Ports, 2021

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has invited comments on the draft of the Dredging Guidelines for Major Ports which have been prepared in consultation with the stakeholders.

The draft guidelines can be accessed at the Ministry's website (<http://shipmin.gov.in/>)

These guidelines are to be followed by Major Ports to ensure implementation of dredging projects for cost effectiveness and delivery of projects as per schedule.



faster and comfortable transportation across the nation. Apart from providing air connectivity to various remote religious/tourist places, it will boost tourism for domestic and international holidaymakers. It will save travel time and stimulate localized short distance travelling especially in the hilly regions or across rivers and lakes.

Realizing the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya stated that the commencement of Seaplane operations aligns with the vision of improving connectivity across the nation and make India an attractive destination for the tourists. By providing air connectivity to numerous remote, religious/tourist places and unexplored locations near the water bodies will simplify the journey further. This would generate employment opportunities and stimulate tourism on these new locations that will contribute to the country's GDP in the long run.



Government of India strengthened Cargo Handling Capacity at Chabahar Port, Iran

Chabahar Port fulfills India's shared commitment towards prosperity and trade with Central Asia through seamless maritime connectivity. India has supplied a consignment of two Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) to Iran's Chabahar port, with a total contract value of over 25 million dollars under the contract agreement for supply of 6 MHC.

Enhancing infrastructure development of Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar is another step in solidifying inter-regional co-operation between India and Iran

The consignment of cranes had arrived from Marghera port in Italy which was unloaded successfully on 18th January 2021 at Chabahar port and presently have been undergoing trials run.

With 140 metric tons lifting capacity, multipurpose equipment and

accessories like Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) will enable India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) to provide seamless services for Container, Bulk and General Cargo at Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar.

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya stated that Chabahar Port is a strategic port with great national importance. The delivery of consignment of heavy equipment, including cranes shows India's commitment to the strategic connectivity of Chabahar port project that will provide access to markets in Central Asia.

“Development of Chabahar port will result in the expansion of mutual relations between India and Iran and it will give a further boost to the maritime trade between both the countries.”





‘CHINTAN BAITHAK’

Moving towards Maritime India Vision 2030

Hon'ble Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a three-day Ports Review Meeting named 'Chintan Baithak' in Dhordo, Kutch, Gujarat. Chairpersons of all Major Ports of India and Senior Officials of the ministry participated in the extensive brainstorming conference for finalizing the roadmap of Maritime Vision-2030 in between 21st to 23rd January 2021

Sessions during Baithak included exploring new avenues of urban transportation, effective implementation of SAROD-Ports, issues related to International Arbitrations etc.

The future action plan for development of satellite ports by all major ports will be deliberated. Discussion on opening up more new routes for RO- RO, RO-Pax ferry and Seaplane services across the nation and discussion on ways and means of increasing volume & movement of Coastal Cargo also took place.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya stated that the basic purpose of holding this Chintan Baithak is to evolve out of the box ideas for improving the performance and efficiency of our Major Ports, setting up of world-class infrastructure facilities at ports by adopting global benchmarks for reducing logistics costs, enhancing connectivity and Ease of Doing Business are our focus areas.

“All the ideas that have emerged out of the extensive discussions in the Chintan Baithak are going to be entwined in the Maritime Vision 2030 to fulfil Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' with the key mantra of 'Reform, Perform & Transform' added Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.

3 day 'Chintan Baithak' of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and waterways concluded with a lot of promises and maritime visions for the future. Chintan Baithak held an extensive brainstorming session, chaired by Shri Manuskh Mandaviya, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways with chairpersons of all Major Ports and senior officials of the ministry. It was held from 21st January to 23rd January, 2021 in The Tent City- Dhordo, Kutch, Gujarat.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya in his closing remark said, **"Our larger goal is to regain India's maritime glory. With this Chintan Baithak, the coordination between all Major Ports will be more streamlined and will be able to work with more synergy to achieve common goals. On the concluding day of Chintan Baithak, I am happy as well as hopeful as Maritime India Vision-2030 is finalized and ready to be implemented soon. I advise Chairpersons of all Major Ports and officials to work with optimism, dedication and motivation to put India on the world map as the maritime leader"**





A range of sessions throwing light on new Initiatives like Coastal routes were identified for urban transportation covering the entire coastline of India. Efficient utilization of core and non-core assets of Major Ports were deliberated. Various technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data, Geo-Fencing, Data driven traffic management in the ports, IOT based truck platooning, GIS based cargo tracking etc. were discussed to simplify and smoothen the operations of Major Ports to convert ports in 'Smart Ports' and further

'Intelligent Ports' as envisioned in Maritime India Vision-2030.

Possibilities of restructuring Indian Ports Association, Creating India's first ever Maritime Arbitration Center to resolve maritime disputes in India itself instead of going to other countries were explored. Probabilities of establishing satellite Ports for reducing the congestion and burden on Major Ports and attracting more cargo were also discussed.

Proposed domestic and international routes of Ro-Ro and ROPAX Ferry Services were reviewed. While reviewing new proposed locations of Seaplane operations, it was noted that Expression of Interest (EOI) of Seaplanes has received overwhelming response. The ways to improve the share of movement of coastal cargo were explored. The roadmap of Manpower Planning up to 2035 in all Major Ports was also examined.



Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterway intends to promote floating jetties/platforms for various usages all along the Indian Coastline



Ministry has issued guidelines for floating structures, with a vision to set up world-class floating infrastructure all along the coastline,

The guidelines set out various technical aspects for implementation of Floating Jetties/Platforms for Marinas, Minor Harbors, Fishing Harbours/Fish landing centers, Waterdromes and such other similar facilities in coastal areas, estuaries, waterways, rivers and reservoirs.

These guidelines may also be suitably utilized for floating pontoons/platforms in various waterborne systems and floating wave attenuators (or breakwaters) for Minor Harbors/Fish Landing facilities.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is promoting floating structures because of its inherent advantages. The benefits of floating jetties/structures over the conventional quay and fixed concrete structures include its cost-effectiveness, faster implementation, easily expandable and relocatable; and having minimal environmental impacts.

Ministry has successfully implemented few projects including setting up of passenger floating jetties in Goa, water-aerodromes at Sabarmati River & at Sardar Sarovar Dam (for the seaplane services) that have been popularly with tourists. These kinds of

projects are several of many that the Ministry has planned for overall development and upliftment of the coastal community and has reached its implementation stage.

Union Minister Shri Mandaviya said that Ministry had set a benchmark and evolved standard specifications in these guidelines at par with international standards. These platforms have several advantages over the conventional/fixed concrete structures. It is the endeavor of our Ministry to promote laying up of such world class infrastructure across the country in the upcoming projects to achieve the best results of utilization, durability, safety, low maintenance, cost-effectiveness and above all with minimal ecological impacts.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Project set forward by JNPT as part of its Green Port Initiative



Envisioning sustainability and giving a major push to green port initiatives, by Shri Sanjay Sethi, Chairman, JNPT inaugurated 'Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Project' that would tackle dry waste and use them for power generation through Biogas plant.

In this new project, 10 MT/Day Solid Waste management is designed as per SWM Rules 2016 based on BARC technology. It is based on a Bio Gas plant for 5 MT/Day capacity with power generation from Biogas and production of biogas and generation power setup. As well as Installed hydraulic baling press machine to compress dry waste, Two Ghanta Gadi's with appropriate partition for the collection of wet and dry waste separately, and SW collection accessories for planned awareness training to stakeholders.

This ambitious plan is the part of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) initiative of Government of India that originates from the vision of the Government for ensuring hygiene, waste management, and



sanitation across the nation and aims for a Clean India under a collaborative framework of multiple stakeholders. The development of a modern and scientific solid waste treatment and disposal facility.

Dignitaries present at the inauguration included Deputy Chairman of JNPT- Shri Unmesh Sharad Wagh and other senior officials.



Landmark Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020 Passed in PARLIAMENT



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways moved the bill in Rajya Sabha and Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020 was subsequently passed. The Bill was then passed for Hon'ble President's prior assent.

Reorienting the governance model in central ports to landlord port model in line with the successful global practice, Major Port Authorities Bill 2020 bill aims at decentralizing decision making

and infusing professionalism in governance of major ports.

The bill would facilitate faster and transparent decision making benefiting the stakeholders and ensure better project execution capability. This will also help in bringing transparency in operations of Major Ports and empower Major Ports to perform with greater efficiency on account of full autonomy in decision making and by modernizing the institutional framework of Major Ports.

Salient features of the Major Port Authorities Bill 2020:

Number of sections has been reduced to 76 from 134 The Bill is more compact in comparison to the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 as the

- New Bill has proposed a simplified composition of the Board of Port Authority comprising 11 to 13 Members from present 17 to 19 Members
- Role of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) has been redefined. Port Authority has now been given powers to fix tariff which will act as a reference tariff for purposes of bidding for PPP projects. PPP operators will be free to fix tariff- based on market conditions. The Board of Port Authority has been delegated the power to fix the scale of rates for other port services and assets including land
- An Adjudicatory Board has been proposed to be created to carry out the residual function of the erstwhile TAMP for Major Ports, to look into disputes between ports and PPP concessionaires
- Boards of Port Authority have been delegated full powers to enter into contracts, planning and development, fixing of tariff except in national interest, security and emergency arising out of inaction and default
- Board of each Major Port shall be entitled to create specific master plan in respect of any development or infrastructure.
- Provisions of CSR & development of infrastructure by Port Authority have been introduced
- Provision has been made for safeguarding the pay & allowances and service conditions including pensionary benefits of the employees of major ports





Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Maritime India Summit

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Maritime India Summit-2021 on 2nd March. Around 20,000 delegates, 24 partner countries will participate in the 2nd edition of Maritime India Summit (MIS) 2021 to be held virtually from 2nd March to 4th March 2021. The 3-day event will be organized by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) jointly with FICCI as Industrial Partner and EY as Knowledge Partner.

Union Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya addressed a Curtain Raiser press-conference at the National Media Centre and said that the Maritime India Summit was going to provide a powerful platform for international collaboration and bring in partner countries for mutual exchange of knowledge and opportunities.

MIS 2021 will provide a unique platform that would have a physical and virtual presence of prominent shipping and transport ministers/dignitaries from across the world. Maritime States of India will participate in the Summit through dedicated sessions. The Summit will also host an exclusive CEOs' forum along with various thematic/breakout sessions.

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and senior officials also launched a brochure and the website www.maritimeindiasummit.in for the MIS-2021 during the press conference. The registration for the visitors and exhibitors will start from today with the launch.

Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, Secretary of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways briefly explained the salient Budget 2021-22 announcements related to Ports, Shipping and Maritime sector

and termed them as path breaking initiatives in the vision to realize 'Aatmairbhar Shipping'

Deendayal Port crosses 100 MMT in Cargo Handling!



Previously known as Kandla Port, Deendayal Port in Kutch, Gujarat has crossed 100 MMT (Million Metric Tons) in cargo handling

Deendayal Port handled 13.25 MMT of liquid cargo and 43.76 MMT of Dry cargo & containers at Kandla. It also handled 43.30 MMT at Vadinar (which includes transshipment), the containerized cargo crossed 4.50 lakh TEU during this period, grossing a total of 100 MMT overall. Major commodities handled by the Deendayal Port are Crude Oil, Petroleum product, Coal, Salt, Edible Oil, Fertilizer, Sugar, Timber, Soya bean, Wheat.

The overlying factor behind this success can be attributed to the user-friendly approach of port with the Shipping fraternity/stakeholders and constant consultations with them to improve Ease of Doing Business.



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (I/C) appreciated the efforts taken by Deendayal

Port and added that it was indeed a major achievements in the challenging COVID times significantly indicates that the economy is bouncing back to achieve pre-COVID times.





World-Class Dredging Systems will be made in India soon

Memorandum of Understandings signed between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and largest dredger maker of the world, Royal IHC Holland BV, in the presence of Shri Mansukh Mandaviya Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Mr. Marten van den Berg, Ambassador of Netherlands in New Delhi

On the occasion Shri Mansukh Mandaviya said "As part of Government of India's thrust on Blue Economy, there is an ever-increasing demand to develop and maintain existing major ports, building new ports, offshore resource exploration, deployment of ultra-mega-size vessels, promotion of tourism, and beach nourishment. Considering India's vast coastline of over 7,500 km along the east and west coasts this would in turn lead to significant dredging in the country. This partnership will help the country grow."

CSL and IHC Holland BV have arrived at an understanding to work together to provide locally built world-class dredgers. High-capacity dredgers in the range of 8000 Cu Meter to 12,000 Cu Meter are complex equipment being built in India for the first time. World Leaders in design and construction of dredgers, IHC Holland BV will collaborate for making world class dredgers with and sets a benchmark in building capabilities within India

Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) controls the majority of the maintenance dredging market in India and dredging services for the major ports. With increased dredging requirements on the East & West Coast of India, being projected as part of Port developments, DCI envisages a requirement to increase their dredging capacity. With more infrastructure projects on the anvil across the major Ports in India, the requirement of such dredgers in the future can also be met in India once we acquire the expertise. This joint effort by CSL and DCI has set a precedent for

Indian private and public players to build large complex vessels at global standards in India, and extend support to Government of India's vision of building an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.



Now LPG can be transported through Inland Waterways

Memorandum of Understanding signed between IWAI and MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte. Ltd for transportation of LPG (Liquified Natural Gas) through barges on National Waterways-1 and National Waterways-2 in the presence of Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.

Inland Waterways Authority of India will provide support for facilitating with adequate fairways, handling of LPG cargo on IWAI terminals/Multimodal Terminals at Haldia, Sahibganj and Varanasi as per notified provisions and rates on request of MOL and provide Lease Available Depth (LAD) information on fortnightly/ monthly basis.

MOL Group is the world's largest gas carrier company and will invest for construction and operation of dedicated LPG barges under Make-in-India initiative of the Government of India. Aegis Group proposed investments for setting up storage terminals, dedicated pipelines between jetty to the terminal and necessary infrastructure at jetty for evacuation of products from barges.



DG Shipping organized Road show and MoU signing ceremony



Directorate General of Shipping organized a Road show and MoU signing ceremony on 27 February 2021. This road show and ceremony was organized as the prelude to the Maritime India Summit, 2021 that had been scheduled to be held on virtual platform from 2nd to 4th of March, 2021 by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar, Additional Director General of Shipping informed that national and international stakeholders would be participating in this summit from all parts of the world. He invited industry stakeholders to largely take part in various sessions, exhibitions, stalls and business talks. He stressed that the MIS-21 is platform for attracting huge investment, creation of business and employment opportunities in the maritime sector.

Shri Amitabh Kumar, IRS, DG Shipping informed that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi would be inaugurating the summit on 2nd of March at 11:45 AM. During the MIS-21 the PM will also inaugurate prestigious and strategic facility established by the Directorate General of Shipping namely 'SAGARMANTHAN', the Mercantile Maritime Domain Awareness Centre (MM-DAC) located in Mumbai. The objective of the summit is to steer India to the forefront of the global maritime sector.

The bold policy initiatives taken by the government in the past few years have raised the enthusiasm of all the stakeholders of the Maritime Industry. The summit will also conduct various thematic and interactive sessions in which speakers of international repute will be giving presentations on topics on latest trends.

This event was witnessed by more than 500 participants from across the world. To take forward the objective of the summit for exploring new business opportunities, 61 national and international MoUs were signed to the tune of investment over Rs, 20,674.13 Cr., which is expected to be generating employment opportunities for around 50,000 seafarers in five years.

MOUs signed in various subsectors of the Indian Maritime Industry is as below:

- Ship Acquisition for registration under Indian flag
- Promotion of Ship building
- Ship repair (including container manufacture & repair)
- Environment (Hybrid vessels/ fuel facility)
- Employment for Indian seafarers
- Sponsorship for higher education, Skill Development and establishment of new training academies in India.



Visakhapatnam Port Trust

Swachha Bharat Programme was organized at various locations by all the departments of Visakhapatnam Port Trust.

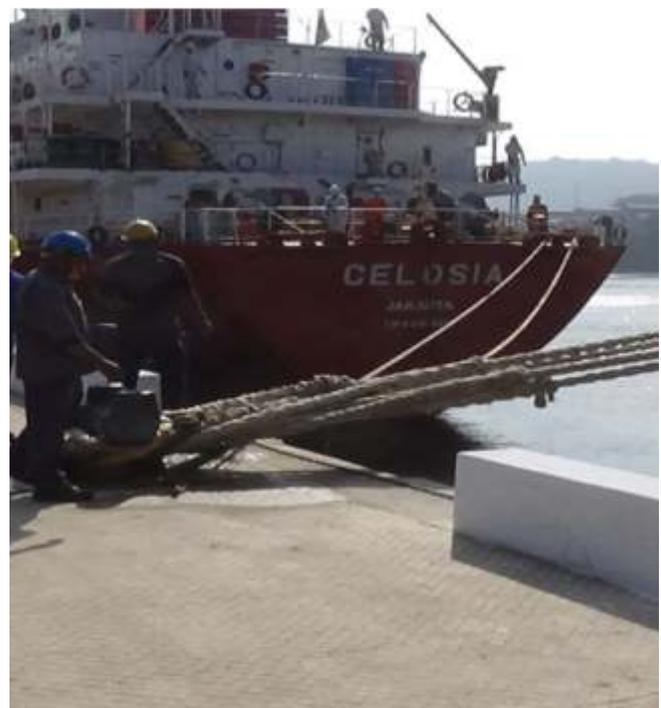
Before



After



Inauguration of OR- III Berth. Phase- I of “Improving Capacity Utilization of OR-I & OR-II Berths at Inner Harbour in VPT on 09.01.2021





Visakhapatnam Port Trust celebrated 72nd Republic day

Visakhapatnam Port Trust celebrated 72nd Republic day with lots of fanfare

Shri K.Rama Mohana Rao, Chairman, VPT unfurled the national flag and took the 'Rastriya Salute' presented by CISF at the Port Diamond Jubilee Outdoor Stadium.

Shri Rao said that the Port played a vital role in times of the pandemic and the relentless efforts of the employees resulted in uninterrupted supply of essential commodities throughout the country. Further, he added that the VPT would consider all measures to increase the cargo handling and mechanization of berths during the financial year 2020-21

Shri Rao expressed his happiness on achievement of all-time high record in terms of turnover by VPT (72.72 Million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo is handled during the financial year 2019-20 as against 65.30 MMT during 2018-19). He appreciated VPT officers and staff on the above achievement.

Swachh Bharat Programme organized on VPT Premises



To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October 2014.



While leading the mass movement for cleanliness, Hon'ble Prime Minister urged our countrymen to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean and hygienic India.

Taking the initiative forward, Swachh Bharat based

cleanliness initiatives were taken forward by all the departments at various locations of VPT

Chairman of Visakhapatnam Port Trust and Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. inaugurated Beach Nourishment Programme





Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao, Chairman, VPT had inaugurated the 2020-21-year beach nourishment work.

Shri Rao added that during the monsoon, the sand at the beach gets eroded affecting Kurusura area and adjoining roads. To

protect the beach from erosion and for nourishing the beach, VPT had signed a three-year contract for beach nourishment with DCIL at a cost of Rs. 15 crore per annum.

He also said that the initiative was being taken up by VPT under CSR along with sprinkling polymer on coal to form a cohesive layer so that coal dust does not spread due to the wind.

Press Briefing organized on Maritime India Summit with the unveiling of official MIS logo on 21.02.2021



Ahead of the upcoming Maritime India Summit 2021 being organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, a press briefing was organized by Visakhapatnam

Port Trust at Port Kalavani Auditorium on 24.02.2021.

Addressing the journalists, VPT Chairman Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao called upon the stakeholders to make use of the summit as different stake holders will be explaining about abundant opportunities available in the maritime sector.

He also said that due to the COVID-19, the summit would be virtually conducted, and the stakeholders and public are given option to register in the event for availing the opportunities, facilities extended and also urged Port users and other stake holders to register in large numbers to take note of the developments taking place in Maritime sector.

Visakhapatnam Port Trust signed MoUs with Partners & Stakeholders ahead of Maritime India Summit



Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) signed several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various stake holders in connection with virtual Maritime India

Summit, 2021 was held virtually from March 2nd to 4th 2021.

MoU was signed between the VPT and the HPCL worth Rs. 28,264 crore for capacity expansion. Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India also entered into a pact worth Rs. 600 crore with the VPT for enhancing the present capacity of the AM/NS palletisation plant.

Dredging Corporation of India also signed an MoU with VPT for Rs. 125 crore for sand trap dredging and beach nourishment at the RK Beach for five years. The J.D fisheries and the Govt. of A.P signed a Rs. 100 crore MoU with the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for development of a fishing harbor. M/s. Integral company has also entered into a MoU worth Rs. 38 crore for the installation and operation of harbor mobile cranes for higher productivity and many others MoUs worth crore of rupees were also signed in the event, said VPT Chairman Sri K.Rama Mohana Rao, IAS.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port handled wind blade of length 75.60 metres, the longest of its kind handled through VOC Port.



A TEMPLE THAT SERVED AS A LIGHTHOUSE



Reminding of a long forgotten history.....a magnificent world of seafarers, traders and dynasties that ruled over it, a tall but verbose structure lies upon the hilly top. Slowly guiding steps reaching upto through the brilliant structure, 'Olakkanatha Temple' is a testament of India's glorious maritime heritage

Olakkannasvara, originally derived from 'Ulaikkannisvaram' that means 'Temple of Lord Shiva highlighting the crescent moon or eye of wisdom). Located in Mahabalipuram town of Tamil Nadu, the temple faces east from the direction of sea and can be accessed only through a series of cut steps on exposed rock. It is situated on the top of a hill, above the Mahishasuramardini Mandapa near the modern lighthouse. The modern Lighthouse

'Mahabalipuram Lighthouse' was built by the British in 1887. It is approximately 58 kilometre from Chennai and about 32 km from Chengalpet. The area is a high security zone as there is a nuclear power station about a few kilometers to its south.

Like the Shore Temple, the Olakkannasvara Temple was built during the reign of the Pallava dynasty king Rajasimha. Archaeologist Albert Longhurst observed that prior to the





construction of the present lighthouse at this site in 1900, the roof of the Olakkannesvara Temple served as the lighthouse with perhaps a wooden shed structure on the roof and emitted light for providing navigational aid to the ships.

During the reign of Pallava rulers who ruled over large parts of Tamil Nadu between 275 CE and 897 CE, Mahabalipuram emerged as a major port city. Many of the Tamilian poets at the time such as Periya Thirumozhi, a Vaishnava poet Thirumangai Alwar, mentioned Mahabalipuram as a flourishing seaport where traders from China and South East Asia landed. It is said that the legendary traveller Marco Polo visited Mahabalipuram in the 13th century CE and called it 'City of Seven Pagodas'.

Many earlier writings talk about the roof of this temple that had a shallow depression where a pot with a height of 1.5 feet was kept with oil was filled in. The oil was set on fire every evening that transformed Olakkannesvara temple into a lighthouse that helped ships to navigate during night.

The temple's tower has been built on the Dravidian Style. The half hall inside the temple leads to a rectangular shrine. Dwarf-palas (guards) that are visible at the main shrine, which are in half-profile represent the traditional practice of the front-facing style that is based on Mahabalipuram Pallava style. Engravings on the wall represent various lores and stories related to Lord Shiva and Devi Parvati. Another fine sculpted image of Lord Shiva in 'Nataraja' pose

In the 19th century, several significant shipping accidents happened in this area. Thus, a local port officer proposed to place the light on the top of the abandoned Olakkannesvara Temple. This is the highest spot in this area – the top of the temple is some 36 m above the sea.

British administration placed granite slabs over the temple (due to the loss of the upper floor the temple stood without roof) and covered them with concrete. On the top was placed a lantern and in 1887 here started to operate a lighthouse.

Lighthouse was operated here until 19th century and by that time on the nearby hill a new lighthouse was erected. There is a small museum near the lighthouses now and both lighthouses are open to tourists who enjoy the magnificent view from both.

Most likely lighthouses were built also much earlier, in the times of emperor Ashoka (3rd century BC) or even during the times of Indus Valley Civilization. A watchtower in Kuntasi (Gujarat) could be the world's oldest lighthouse which was operated some 4,000 years ago.

Government of India has been recently taking several initiatives to restore the previous glory and cultural value in selected 65 lighthouses across the country.





The Sagarmala Post

—— (A Newsletter by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways) ——

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