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GlobalMET conference on "Future of Digitalisation and Communications" stresses on need for adoption of new technology



National Maritime Day celebrated with passion, dedication and fervor







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IMEI Organizes Momentous Event to honour its author-members



PM Narendra Modi inaugurates India's first water metro in Kerala's Kochi



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**GlobalMET** conference on "Future of Digitalisation and Communications" stresses on need for adoption of new technology

## Maritime Destination

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### Maritime Destination

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# **EDITORIAL**

### Importance of technology in shipping & logistics sector

¬he so called "Fourth Industrial Revolution" is associated with several cutting edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics (BDA), Cloud Computing and Internet of Things (IoT). These are influencing the maritime industry by enabling construction of several autonomous ships like Yara Birkeland, the world's first electric and self-propelled container ship. The maritime transport industry is already transitioning into a new operations paradigm, often termed as "shipping in the era of digitalization".

Shipping has been considered as a tradition-driven industry. However, the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have accelerated digitalization progress and innovation. Pandemic has accelerated the adoption of certain technologies and ways of working. Today, shipping companies believe that digitalization is the future of maritime industry and are making efforts to set up strategies for fulfilling requirements which would be required in the future.

The working of the entire shipping industry is expected to adopt digitalization and advanced technology. Organisational structure and responsibilities, as per Lloyd's Register and WMU, will change from operating at sea to monitoring, managing and supervising systems from ashore. The concept of net-centric is gaining ground (where users can get appropriate information wherever and whenever they need it). Autonomous vessels based on artificial intelligence applications, according to the modern generation, is expected to work together, in a collaborative environment, for safety and efficiency of shipping.

Shipping industry is slowly exploring ways for leveraging new technologies to improve the efficiency and productivity of their investments. This may, according to some, be difficult due to the inherent complexity of the maritime industry. But things within the maritime sector are changing at a rapid pace. A survey conducted by Wärtsilä Marine Business shows that two-thirds of shipping companies have started on their digital journey. The new business environment demands the shipping industry to shift from the

traditional business model of selling capacity, to one that offers value to customers. With the increasing need of global supply chains for seamless flow of goods and services, Digital Business is a key enabler for shipping companies today.

In the past coordinating between different segments of a supply chain was a challenge. Information technology has, today, enabled the stakeholders to share information and track shipments, leading to a more seamless and efficient transportation system. Information technology has helped in making shipping faster, cheaper, and safer.

Technology has helped the industry in various ways like cost reduction, improving customer service and, overall, increasing efficiency. These three benefits can be elaborated thus:

Cost reduction: The use of computers and other automated systems has helped to improve efficiency and accuracy, which in turn reduces waste and errors, resulting in cost savings.

Customer satisfaction: Since customers have access to real-time tracking information, they can receive updates on the status of their shipments. This leads to customer satisfaction. Besides this usage of social media and other online platforms can help in quickly resolving customer issues.

Increase in efficiency: The most significant benefit of IT in transportation and logistics industry is increased efficiency. Automated systems help in streamlining processes ranging from route planning to inventory management.

It has become important for the shipping industry to adopt technology to enable it to continue serving the global economy. And it is doing it!

Editor

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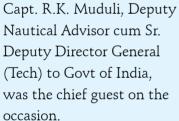
## **GlobalMET** conference on "Future of **Digitalisation and Communications" stresses** on need for adoption of new technology



he Global Maritime Education & Training Association (GlobalMET), to help the industry in keeping pace with the latest developments, conducted a conference and exhibition on 'Future of Digitalization and Communication' on February 25 at

Novotel Juhu hotel, Mumbai. The conference, which evinced a keen interest in the industry, witnessed the crème de la crème of the industry attend the event. Capt. Tescelin Almeida, the Master of the Ceremony conducted the proceedings.





Capt Kersi Deboo, Principal at Anglo Eastern Maritime Training Centre, welcoming





the guests, enlightened them about the background of GlobalMet. He stated that GlobalMet, formed in1989,in Australia, by a group of maritime education and training (MET) institutions with a mission to work together and help improve MET standards around the



world, is now registered in Honk Kong with consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He disclosed that GlobalMET. which held an NGO status at IMO, has been carrying out activities and research in the field of maritime training and education. Representative from GlobalMet attended IMO committee meeting dealing with Maritime Education & Training. He said that GlobalMET had been leading various teams for writing of a number of IMO Model courses and also chaired the Drafting group at the IMO Human Element. Representative from GlobalMet also attended the Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) sub committee meetings and he was privileged to be part of many such delegations. Capt. KersiDeboo mentioned that with each other's support





they had put forth proposals on competencies that needed to be enhanced by submitting technical papers for the same at IMO and the convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) will be amended based on the overall suggestions. He stated that they laid emphasis on physical and mental health. Aspects like safety and maintenance of environment were also emphasized. Training on Sexual Assault and sexual Harassment (SASH) and training through advanced simulators provided a feel of realistic environment to cadets.

Capt R.K. Mudali, Chief Guest, in his inaugural address delved on the importance of digital literacy. He averred that as technology continues to envelop peoples' daily lives digital literacy became an impotant issue. He affirmed that with technology become more and more ingrained in our daily life the importance of learning digital literacy skills is becoming increasingly apparent for the development of a nation. India, he stated, with its ambitious "Digital India" campaign aimed to make government services available to citizens electronically by online infrastructure improvement and also by enhancing internet connectivity. It also aims to empower the country digitally in the domain of technology. He disclosed that digitalisation was also being implemented in the shipping industry. The Directorate General of Shipping too has adopted digitalization which is proving to be extremely beneficial for the seafarers, Capt. Muduli said.

Capt Muduli added that Digitalisation was now changing the environment in which ship agents and ship brokers operate. Digitalisation provides the means to exchange more information, in greater detail, and in real time. He said that digitalization is not just time – saving but also cost effective. Capt. Muduli mentioned how e- governance and e-learming has reaped great benefits for seafarers as well as the authorities.





He pointed out that Maritime Training Institutes have also maintained their records online and certificates are also generated automatically. He ended his speech by citing a quote from Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi declaring that Digitalization has the ability to transform lives of people in unimaginable way s. He urged that we must ensure that the technology is accessible, affordable and adds value.

Mr. Deepak Shetty, former Director General of Shipping Government of India and currently India Head of 'Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)', spoke on the significant headway made by MACN to root out corruption in the maritime industry in India and the role of digitization and faceless systems in curbing corrupt practices.

Capt. Pradeep Chawla, Chairman/ Managing





Director, QHSE and Training at GlobaMET / Anglo-Eastern Shipmanagement, declared that communication is going to witness a change in the way the shipping fraternity operated their ships. The industry has progressed from mail to email allowing ships to integrate with offices. From the ship management point of view the automated system was of great significance he averred. Capt. Chawla enlightened the participants on the applications which ensure that people in the industry don't work in silos. Through his presentation he elucidated on data collection and management and delved on technologies to determine position of ships and accuracy







on weather conditions. He also touched the topic of regulatory framework saying it helps boost optimization in operations and there was an urgent need to expedite the process of implementation at the IMO.

The second session of the conference, conducted by stalwarts of the industry, had many speakers from across the globe.

Mr. Daniel Sheehan. Independent Consultant of National & International Maritime Safety, Security & Environment Protection Issue chaired a session on USCG Response to Emerging Technology where Rear Admiral Wayne Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, United States Coast Guard spoke on the global perspective.

Mr. Laurie Eve, Director retail, INMARSAT Maritime spoke on 'Future of Communications'

Ramji Krishnan, GlobalMET Secretariat, chaired the next session

Mr. Stuart Edmonston. director of Loss Prevention, UK P&I Club gave a talk on 'Future of Digitalization from the P&I Perspective

Mr. Joy Basu, CEO & Founder of smart Ship Hub Digital Pvt. LTD spoke on 'Connected Ships for New Age Maritime Economy'.

A panel discussion, with one of the subjects being Digitalization, was moderated by Mr. David Birwadkar, Vice President, at Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd.













Discussions were also held with Capt. Vinayak Mohla, Head of Cadet Recruitment and Competency Management at Anglo-Eastern, Mr. Pankaj Nayak, Head of Global Training at d'Amico Shipping





Group, Mr. Sanjeev Vakil, CEO, Hindustan Institute of Maritime Training and Mr. Abhinav Narayan, CEO of OneLearn Global.

Global- MET created a platform for the exchange of views among members through Panel Sessions Spread throughout the day on topics concerning the future and challenges of digitalization along with Training and Crewing challenges faced with the upcoming Digital age. The panellists shared and opened the forum bridging the gaps with suggestions on the solutions for Government and Private bodies to take up in their scheme of things.

The panelists for Crewing

Challenges for Digitalisation' comprised of Capt. Anil Tejpal, Director, Crewing Strategy, Synergy Marine Group moderated a talk with Mr. Vishal Breja, Director, Seaarland Ship Management Capt. Sankalp Shukla, Managing Director, Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement, Capt. Pradeep Correa, COO, Sevan Islands Shipping Ltd.

Capt. Manoj Hirkane, Vice Principal, Nautical at Tolani Maritime Institute proposed the Vote of Thanks.

One of the most important highlight from the conference was that there were also exhibitions from various Organisation showcasing their various innovations and ideas.

MD

# **National Maritime Day celebrated** with passion, dedication and fervor



he National **Maritime** Week, in India, begins on March 30 and culminates in the celebrations on April 5. National Maritime Day plays a significant role in promoting awareness about India's maritime



heritage and current role in supporting and promoting the country's economy. The day is an opportunity to express gratitude to the sailors who work tirelessly at sea, at times spending extended period of times away from their families, to ensure smooth functioning of the industry. Enthusiastic and informative Seminars, attended by prominent personalities of the industry were held over the last three days of the week - April 3, 4 and 5.

#### NMDC SEMINAR

The "New India Maritime Day Celebrations (NMDC) Central Committee conducted





a Seminar on "New India - New Tonnage" in hybrid mode at the Indian Registrar of Shipping (IRS) on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.

Capt. M.P. Bhasin, Secretary General, Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI), and Mr. Sanjeev Mehra , Secretary, Institute of Maritime Engineers of India (IMEI), Mumbai Branch welcomed the esteemed guests

Lighting of Lamp ceremony was performed by session chair Mr. Ajith Sukumaran CS cum Addl Dg of Shipping; Mr. Vijay Arora, MD IRClass and Speakers Mr. Anil Devli, CEO INSA; Mr. Sunayan Sanatami, GESCO; Mr. Nikhil Raj, SCI; & Dr. Suhas Vhanmanav, IRS.

Mr. Ajith Sukumaran,



enlightening the audience about the tonnage carried by the industry, disclosed, "Market capital of all the Indian Shipping companies put together is less than Rs. 2,000 crores, and we must also appreciate that India has more than Rs. 2,00,000 crores. New India thus has a huge potential to explore and exploit."

He added, "India which



is going to be the fastest growing economy of the times may be the 5th largest in nominal GDP and 3rd largest in Purchasing Power Parity index, and more than that when we say New India, we look forward to India which is going to be the third largest economy by end of this decade. When we are talking

about New India, we would like to see that India is one of the largest human Resources capital of the world as India is the talent pool of the world".

Mr. Anil Devli believed that the reason why India was not growing in tonnage was because unlike any other industry where access to the market worldwide is only





given to local companies, in shipping one can import a service without having thee



need of local presence. For shipping one does not need a local entity. Since there was no countervailing duty, it was cheaper to import shipping services in India.

He added. "The other important issue is the Policy Flip Flop that we see because of which no investor is able to envisage where his investment is going to go in the long term."

In his presentation, he highlighted a comparison between an Indian Flag ship versus Foreign Flag ship covering important operating parameters (like Bunker Rate, Seafarers' wages taxation, Direct tax Tonnage Rate, Cadet Training cost, IGST on Import of ships) for a costal voyage.

He stated, ""There is a 20% additional cost in operating Indian flagships, hence there is no way, I am going to be able to compete with operating





Foreign flag Indian Ships. One is better off not flagging in India and doing business in India."

Mr. SunayanSanatani spoke on Navigating the forthcoming regulations on Green House gas Emission, the use of newer technologies for improvement of CII Ratings, Best Practices to run existing ships, and deciding upon the alternate fuel to be put in use.

Mr. Nikhil Raj, in his presentation, covered the composition of the Indian Shipping Fleet, Regulatory requirements impacting the



shipping industry, the Need for new Tonnage Challenges,, the National Green Hydrogen Mission and global Ship scenario and key points for the way Forward.

Dr. Suhas Vhanmane, in



his presentation focused on digitalization applications in the shipping sector, the Impact on seafarers, IRS digitalization activities and IRS partnership with French multinational DASSAULT.

Dr. Suhas Vhanmane, in his presentation focused on digitalization applications in the shipping sector, the Impact on seafarers, IRS digitalization activities and IRS partnership with French multinational DASSAULT. Under the impact on seafarers, he quoted the Human training & watchkeeping (HTW) session 9, a roadmap by IMO.

This was followed by Q & A sessions where eminent personalities, Mr. Vikrant Ral, Capt. Panda and Mr. Hazira came up keen observations and worthy recommendations.

The Seminar came to an end with a presentation of mementos to the Session Chair and all Speakers and Moderators followed by a summing of the session and a Vote of thanks by Mr. Vikrant Ral.

### NMD COMMITTEE **SEMINAR**

The National Maritime Day (NMD) Committee, for their non-technical seminar, held on April 4, selected the theme, "Contemporaneous Issues in Seafaring". Several distinguished guests, besides cadets participated in the





seminar conducted at Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Powai in Mumbai.

Appreciating the cadets for their mind blowing

performance at the recently concluded Maritime awareness walk, the Session Chair- Capt. BK Tyagi, CMD, The Shipping Corporation of India limited,

delving on the relevance of the issue stated, "Today, shipping is facing many challenges; mental health is one of the major concerns. We have to work on Providing timely relief to our seafarers."

Capt LK Panda, Former Nautical Advisor Directorate General of Shipping delving on cases of fraudulence declared, "There are many seafarers who get duped due to fraudulent agents. To avoid such incident, the Directorate General of Shipping has uploaded an updated list of recognised RPSL companies and maritime training institute on their website." He advised the cadets to educate themselves before applying for the job.





Capt. Tushar Pradhan, General Secretary, The Maritime Union of India (MUI) advised the Pre-sea cadets to be strong emotionally. He added, "Listen to your seniors, they will guide you throughout your tour of duty. Lastly, please do not leave at an early stage of your career, become a Master

or Chief Engineer. As you mature over the years, you are in a better position to choose an upward progression in your career."

Dr Deepti Mankad, speaking on Mental Health, stated, "Mental health is no longer considered a taboo. We are







seeing many companies investing in seafarers' mental health and wellness." She urged the cadets to reach out to their budding seafarers, seniors or family members when they are facing any issues.

Paulomi Sudhir of NIMHANS, speaking on self-care and intervention advised the seafarers to treat each day individually. This, according to Paulomi, would help in them in their wellbeing.

Dr Prasad Shetty of 3cubes Medicare elaborating on Gender Diversity and

Inclusiveness declared that gender sensitization was gradually progressing, where people were becoming more aware of gender equality and the need to eliminate gender discrimination

Mr Ashish Sinha ,IRS Deputy Director General of Shipping and Ms Sonali Banjeree, Surveyor, Indian Register Shipping moderated the Panel discussion.

The summation of the panel discussion spotlighted reaching out to seniors onboard if the seafarers faced any problems. It also advised the cadets to be cautious of fraudulent agents and companies while applying for a job.

#### THE FINALE

The theme for this year's National Maritime Day in India was 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping'. which, in English, translates to 'Golden Era in Shipping' and refers to the 25-year period from India's 75th to 100th year of independence.

The Finale of National Maritime Day celebrations, held on April 5, commemorated the embarkation of the First Indian owned vessel. "S S Loyalty", on her maiden voyage from Mumbai to London on this day in 1919.

The Grand Finale function of Diamond Jubilee of National Maritime Day' this year was organised on 5th April 2023 at domestic Cruise Terminus, Mumbai



It witnessed crème de la crème of the industry from India as well as abroad.

Mr. Shantanu Thakur. Minister of State for Ports. Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India, presided over the function.

Mr. Mark Harbers. Minister for Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherland, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Mr. Shantanu Thakur congratulating all stakeholders of maritime fraternity on the occasion expressed his pleasure at the choice of 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping' as the theme.

He averred that the vision of the Government for Amrit Kaal is for creation of opportunities for citizens with focus on youth, growth and job creation, strong and





stable macro – economic environment. He stated. "There is a strong need to promote coastal shipping as an energy efficient and low cost mode of transport, both for passengers and freight."

He stated that the 'Sapta-Rishis' (Seven priorities) of Amrit Kaal were: Inclusive Development, Reaching the last Mile, Infrastructure and Investment, Unleashing the potential, Green growth, Youth Power and Financial Sector. These, he stated, would aid India in becoming a major shipping power in the global arena.

Mr. Mark Harbers extended his greetings and best

wishes to the seafarers and Indian maritime fraternity on this historic day. He urged the need for sustainability in Shipping and lauded India for the consistent efforts in boosting the indigenous Shipping industry.

Mr. Rajiv Jalota, Director General of Shipping, in his keynote address

delving on the glorious past of the Indian shipping industry in promoting seaborne trade declared "The government has a vision to make the Amrit Kaal as a pioneering period in the development of the country." He stressed that this was the time for technology to connect all elements of shipping to enable it to become one of the most important industries.

On this occasion following Sagar Samman awards were conferred:

Varuna Award Capt. Thanuvelil Koshy Joseph

Award for Excellence Mr. Indra Nath Bose

Award for Gallantry Capt. Anil Choudhary

14 maritime organisations were recognised for their outstanding performance in different fields.

Dr. Raut Pandurang, Deputy Director General of Shipping and Member Secretary, NMDC (Central) Committee delivered the vote of thanks to all those attending the event

#### **SUMMING UP**

The maritime week celebrations witnessed the presence of distinguished guests comprising of Members of Ministry of Ports, shipping & waterways and Ministry of Infrastructure and water Management, delegates from Kingdom of the Netherland, delegates from Royal Danish Embassy, officers and staff of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, DG Shipping, SCI, IRS, Ports, and all other departments of Government of India and state governments. The representative of the Shipping Companies, Maritime Training Institute, RPSL, MTOs Union in Maritime field from India and abroad and Sagar Sammanaward winners and their families. MD

# **Capt Dubey Reports on the IMO HTW9 at CMMI Monthly Meet**



apt C.L Dubey, Extra → Master, Principal & Owner of Mumbai Maritime Training Institute (MMTI), Mumbai and Fellow and Warden of 'The Company of Master Mariners of India'(CMMI), a professional body representing Master Mariners with the purpose of developing and promoting the traditions and standards of the Merchant Navy in India at its monthly lecture meeting on Thursday 23rd March held at the Mumbai Maritime Training Institute (MMTI) presented a report on the IMO sub committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 9) meeting recently held in London from 6 to 10 February 2023.

He stated that the following

major decisions were taken:

#### IMO model training

**courses**: The drafting group, headed by Capt. Vinayak Mohla(sponsored by GlobalMet), finalised 10 IMO model courses which were approved and sent for printing. These finalized IMO model courses included.

- 1. Passenger safety, cargo safety & hull integrity training: new IMO model course
- 2. Engine Room Resource Management : new IMO model course
- 3. Revised IMO model course 1.20: fire prevention and fire fighting
- 4. Revised IMO Model Course 2.03 : Advanced Fire Fighting Training
- 5. Revised IMO Model Course

- 1.23 : Proficiency in survival craft & rescue boats other than fast rescue boat
- 6. Revised IMO Model Course 1.24 : Proficiency in fast rescue boat
- 7 Revised IMO Model Course 1.22: Bridge resource management(replacing the earlier ship simulator & bridge team work course)

There was detailed discussion on Revised IMO Model Course 1.22 from Indian delegation. It was accepted that 1.22 in its new avatar is an operational level course focusing on bridge resource management. The ship handling principles and training with simulator exercises may need to be included in a new model course for which proposals may be put up by member



states in the next HTW 10 meeting. Also model course 7.01 may require revision wherever it was being referenced to IMO model course 1.22.

- 8. Revised IMO Model Course 3.25: Security awareness training for all port facility personnel
- 9. Revised IMO Model Course 3.27: Security awareness training for all seafarers
- 10. Revised IMO Model Course 3.26: On security training for seafarers with designated security duties

#### Comprehensive revision of STCW 2010:

The working group 2: took up this matter.

The work is still in progress and not finalised as yet. The following important decisions on comprehensive revision of STCW took place:

- i. To create a safe working environment for all seafarers onboard and theimportance of psychological safety was discussed
- ii. The topic "bullying and sexual assault & sexual harassment (sash)" was widely debated and it was decided to include it in PSSR course of about 1 day duration. For existing seafarers there has to be refresher training for sash. competence table in a-vi/1-4 added with competencies and KUPS for sash.

India communicated that there is already a course introduced in india for all presea & post sea courses titled as "gender sensitization training for candidates undergoing presea and post sea competency courses".

Implementation of STCW convention was widely discussed. The guiding aims and principles which are to be followed for the comprehensive review of STCW Convention was left to discussion & worked by working group 3.

A correspondence group was formed for virtual meetings to suggest future roadmap & report to HTW10 to be held from 05.02.2024 to 09.02.2024.

The Working Group 2 took up the matter of comprehensive revision of STCW 2010

Capt. Dubey expressed his gratitude to CMMI for sponsoring him to HTW 9 meeting and DG Shipping/ Govt Of India for approving him to be part of the delegation. MD

## **CMMI** holds interactive session on **Revalidation of COCs**



he Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI) organized an enlightening session on the 'Validation Process for Expired Certificate of Compliance' (CoCs).

Conducted by Capt. Daniel Joseph, examiner of Masters & Mates, Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) Mumbai Assessment Centre, the session was attended by Merchant Navy Officers whose CoCs expired or were due to expire. They got a

clarification on how to go about getting their license validated again.

The certificate of compliance or COC is a formal certification declaring that an individual or company has to meet a set of conditions. Capt. Joseph informed that via correspondence through emails he realized how many of the applicants for CoC had not upgraded their document upto STCW convention 2010 and felt the urgent need to address the concern.

The Examiner at MMD also shared a presentation where he highlighted that the International Convention on STCW was adopted initially in 1978, and there were amendments to it in 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2 006,2007,2014,2015,2016 & so on.

He cleared doubts and myths that the COC could be upgraded by doing the necessary courses or going to sea and allows

revalidation of COC every five years. He also shared the terms and conditions for issuance of COC citing that they were bound by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and STCW conventions.He informed that India has maintained standard for STCW and hence was in a better situation. He disclosed that those who had performed function considered to be equivalent to seagoing service, such as worked in capacity of a maritime surveyor, faculty superintendent, cargo superintendent, port officer, port engineer, inspector among others were eligible. This was besides those who had passed an approved test for oral and E-examinations for the grade of the COC.

Medical fitness also was an important criteria. He also shared important resources and information on various courses that needed to be completed for the upgradation process along with prerequisites for the same.

He also discussed the nittygritties regarding revalidation of the participants' COCs as he took note of each officers'







query and also shared his email address with them to share their concern. Capt. Joseph assured them that as long as it was under his purview and not a policy decision he will respond to them within 24 hours and get the issue sorted within 48 hours

Displaying kindness and going out of his way to help, Capt. Joseph also offered those in Mumbai to meet him personally at his NavBhavan office for further information.

Capt. K.V Pradhan Deputy

Master of CMMI who moderated the session said that the series on the topic was held due to the fact that a large number of senior Master Mariners as well as Junior Officers were facing issues as several shore jobs demanded for a valid COC so that they could be eligible for performing their duties.

The most challenging part as briefed by Capt. M.P. Bhasin the Secretary General of the CMMI. was that most of the officers possessed the licenses issued under STCW 1995 while some of them had ones dating back to STCW 1978.

The CMMI and all participating officers thanked Capt. Daniel Joseph for being so cooperative and patient with handling their cases and for being open to suggestion in that area. MD

# Maritime industry bids fond farewell to Amitabh Kumar and extends greetings on his new assignment



aritime Industry representatives organized an event to bid a fond farewell to Mr. Amitabh Kumar, Director General of Shipping on March 1. at Acres Club, Chembur, Mumbai. Stalwarts of the industry watched with rapt attention as cadets of Training Ship Rahaman greeted him with a march past. The maritime industry offered him best wishes on his new assignment as Principal Chief

Commissioner of Income tax. Mumbai.

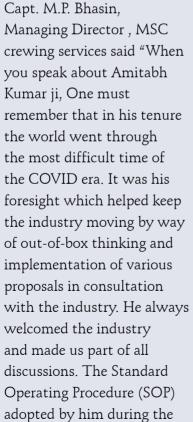
Industry delegates, present on the occasion lauded him as one of the best Directorate General of Shipping. They shared warm words of appreciations for the excellent support extended by Mr. Amitabh Kumar during his 4 years tenure as the Director General of Shipping.

Capt. Anshul Rajvanshi, MD, Synergy Maritime

Recruitment Services said "Mr. Amitabh Kumar was always approachable anytime of the day or night. He always comes across as humble and understanding. The maritime fraternity owes a lot to him for managing in covid time right from document extension of crew change at anchorage at Indian ports. Maritime administrations from many others countries were in fact following what India was doing".

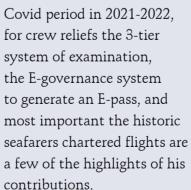












"Above all, he built a strong relationship with industry,









### Mr, Amitabh Kumar's career as DG Shipping

Mr. Amitabh Kumar, IRS (IT 1987) was the Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Gol from January 2019 to February 2023.

He holds a degree of MBA from Southern Cross University, Australia, Advanced Management from Maxwell school of Public Policy, USA and Leadership & change Management from Wharton Business school, USA. He has recently been conferred Degree of Doctorate of Management (Honoris Causa) by AMET University Chennai.

He has held several important positions in the Government of India and CBDT, including that of Director (Delhi) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He is credited with launching sever taxpayer - friendly initiatives including Tax Return Preparer Scheme (TRPS) which involved online training for unemployed graduates to enable them to prepare tax and TDS returns and Tax Payers' Lounge to showcase all taxpayer services under one roof, which has been awarded for 7 consecutive years by the ITPO. His contribution to public service has been recognized almost every year since 2007 by the CBDT, Gol.

He received three Finance Minister's commendations on the 150th year of Income Tax in 2012, the highest by any IRS officer. He is also a recipient of the G-Files Governance Award 2014 for exceptional contribution to Public Service.

He received three Finance Minister's commendations on the 150th year of Income Tax in 2012, the highest by any IRS officer. He is also a recipient of the G-Files Governance Award, 2014 for exceptional contribution to Public Service.

He has led several reforms in D.G. Shipping including the introduction of 35 e-Governance modules, a complete revamp of maritime training transparency in the license and approval process revamping of old Acts, etc the introduction of e-learning online exit exams, issue of digital certificates and complete automation of the office of D.G. Shipping and implementation of ease of doing business.

His management of COVID-19, including safe repatriation and crew change of more than 2,50,000 seafarers has been greatly appreciated & acknowledged by the international community including the Nautical Institute and International Transport Federation.

He led Indian Delegations in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia (CGPCS).

On 25th March, Mr. Amitabh kumar's Birthday the Maritime Fraternity conveys: "Congratulations on your new assignment Amitabh Kumar and May your special day this year bring you more & more success, as you truly deserve the best to come your way."



and seafarers welfare was always in his heart. We remain indebted to him for his vision and directions to the Maritime fraternity".

Capt. Shiv Halbe, CEO of MASSA recalled the support and guidance given by Mr. Kumar during the COVID phase when innovation and adaptation were the only recourse to crew change and crew certification. "No problem," he said, "was too small for Mr. kumar and he was ever ready to review and tweak the rules if they were not serving the intended purpose."

Capt. Rajesh Tondon, CEO FOSMA added, "During his period we successfully faced the challenge posed by the COVID Pandemic, and India's efforts towards crew changes were lauded not only in respect of Indian seafarers but also by foreign seafarers to disembark in India and repatriate to their home countries."

Mr. Manoj Yadav, General secretary FUSI said "We appreciate the effort of Amitabh Kumar for starting e governances that reduced the exploitation of seafarers by fly- by-night operators (non-RPSL). Due to this many seafarers' safety was secured including their repatriation as well as compensation during the time of any accident or if they were abandoned at a foreign port. We wish him good luck for his next inning".



Capt. Nazir upadhye thanked Mr. Amitabh for accepting the invitation at short notice and conveyed best wishes for his future endeavors.

Capt. Tushar Pradhan, GS MUI conveyed thanks and appreciation for being always accessible.

The event was organized by Synergy Group along with Capt. Nazir Upadhye. MD

## **IMEI** organizes momentous event to honour its author-members



he Institute of Marine Engineers of India (IMEI) has been very innovative in bringing new initiatives to help promotion of the industry and, in keeping with this tradition, it organised a meeting in a hybrid mode to honour their members who have authored books on nontechnical subjects and also inform members on the new developments.

Mr. Arun Kumar Gupta, Chairman IME(I) Mumbai Branch warmly welcomed

the author and the esteemed guests at the hybrid event. He then invited the authors to read excerpts from their books and to interact with the participants

Mr. Sanjeev Mehra, Secretary IME(I) Mumbai Branch carried the event onward.

Author Uday Ranadive, from 1965-69 DMET batch who sailed till 1982 and retired as Chief Surveyor & Sr VP in IRS, spoke on his two books "Life Well Cruised" and "The Corporate Boogeyman".

He stated. "Life Well Cruised" was a close to the heart account of a marine engineer's fascinating life on commercial ships as well as and ashore. The story begins from the days that the author was a student cadet right to thee time when he prepares himself for an arduous seafaring journey ahead. The book vividly portrays the incredible voyages on commercial ships across seas, the several ups and downs, and mind blowing experiences on and off the shore. From the port



of Mumbai across the strait of Gibraltar and the Panama Canal, to the Pacific, Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Caribbean oceans, the book takes readers on a thrilling expedition to different ports and places. It is interspersed with details of engines and machinery, the problems and perils at sea and the innovative ways in which the author finds solutions with limited resources. The author makes enduring friendship and everlasting memories that make the often lonely voyages away from family worthwhile. The experience and anecdotes shared by the author are not just reflections of life at sea but life in general as well.

The book, "The Corporate Boogeyman" Mr. Ranadive disclosed, tells of an engineer, getting a job at PCI, where



there were several engineers from IIT. Many engineers leave the company but several others coe together to save the company for which they have to take on a boogeyman. The suave, sharp tongued and narcissistic CMD backed him while mandarins in Delhi were his opponents. Would the employees be able to turn the

company around?

Dr. Binay Singh, Founder and CEO of Singh Marine Management Ltd based in Odessa, Ukraine, has written two books "Kaushik Seal: Cheerful Loyal Maritime Leader" and "Sonali - An Empathetic Woman Leader In Maritime". These books delve into the lives and careers of two exceptional leaders who have made significant contributions to the Maritime industry. He stated that their stories are a testament to the power of positive leadership and the importance of empathy, dedication and hard work.

Dr. Binay Singh stated, "I presented these books in the session with the hope that they would inspire members of the maritime



industry, especially the young generation. By sharing the stories of Kaushik Seal and Sonali Banerjee, I aim to create a culture of leadership that is based on integrity, dedication, and empathy".

Sonali Banerjee, a pioneer of Indian engineering, has also made a name for herself as a champion of equal rights. Together, she and Dr. singh are ushering in a new era of maritime. This book is a close look at who she is and how she works, examining her efforts as well as her successes.

Mr. Guramrit Singh Kahlon, who has risen through the ranks to become Merchant Marine Chief Engineer, spoke about his book, "Memoirs of a Merchant Marine Chief Engineer". The book is written in 3 parts. Part I of his memoir recounts his







ancestors' humble beginning after India's partition. The subsequent segments describe his journey from his

childhood on merchant ships with his father to some light hearted tales of his growing up years- to turning the page and describing some very interesting portrayals of mentorship and learning the tricks of the trade.

Part II recounts several on- site troubleshooting narratives that he witnessed firsthand. Some of the book's gripping short stories depict dramatic moments and nailbiting tension on the high seas, such as losing control of the main engine, being adrift in a merciless sea for days, and even retrieving a dead ship after a prolonged blackout. Part II of the memoir concludes with an account of a wonderful vacation that every seafarers dreams of.

In Part III, he delves into the history of the Indian





shipping industry, beginning with the British India steam Navigation Company came to be and how they collaborated with the government of India to establish the Eastern Shipping Corporation. The formation of the Western Shipping Corporation, followed by the merger of the two corporations to form the shipping corporation of Indian, has also been illuminated

The last author invited was Cdr Gaurav Agrawal, Gaurav who sailed for two years with the Great Eastern shipping company before joining the Indian Navy in 1988, serving in the pristine whites for more than 22 memorable years. Currently a partner in M/S Advait QFS, a technocracy dedicated to Atma Nirbhar **Bharat** 

His book, "From the Crows Nest", is about a collection of the author's life experience presented in a witty manner.

After the book reading session an MOU was signed with Mr. Kaushik Seal for the Singapore chapter of IMEI. This was in continuation of the Institute's efforts to set up International Chapters and spread wings globally.

The IME(I) Members in Singapore have been successful in registering the body with the ROC Singapore. They will now look to cooperate with the IME(I) HO in the achievement of the institute's objectives, apart from servicing the Membership in the region and signing up new Members.

Mr. Vijendra Jain, President IMEI, while acknowledging the presence of all the Past Presidents and other dignitaries addressed the august gathering on key areas of future developments and activities of IMEI including the opening of a new Chapter in Rajasthan on 23rd April 2023. He disclosed that IMEI has received approvals from DGS to conduct classes from IMEI Kolkata and Goa premises. Next in the pipeline are Chennai & Pune making IME(I) one of the largest networking training campuses



in India He extended hearty thanks to all the authors and the paticipants who had contributed to making the event a grand success.

A new annual award in the category of education for the year 2024 named "Omkarnath & Chuni Wazir Award for Excellence in Education" was also announced. The award amount of Rs. 5 Lacs was handed over by Mr. Omkar Nath to IMEI. Mr. Sanjiv Wazir and his father Omkarnath were honoured with a bouquet of flowers, Mr. Sanjiv Wazir thanked the IMEI and shared his vision on the importance of recognizing a teacher through the said Award for excellence in Education in the name of his parents.

Mr. Amit Bhatnagar, Vice President IME(I), proposed a vote of thanks. MD

# News

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates India's first water metro in Kerala's Kochi





M Modi inaugurates India's first water metro at Kochi, Kerala. The Kochi Water Metro. , one of its kind project in the world, connects 10 islands around Kochi, through batteryoperated electric hybrid boats for seamless connectivity, with the city

The country's first Water Metro service, which will initially, start sailing with 8 electric-hybrid boats in two routes - Highcourt - Vypin and Vyttila- Kakkanad stretches, will provide safe, affordable and pocket-friendly travel for people in and around Kochi and also tourists from across the world.

The solar-powered electric vessels with zero emissions



have recyclable aluminium alloy hull bodies and the engines produce near to zero sound and vibration while running.

Since it's an eco-friendly project, the engines of the boat will run on lithium titanite spinel battery, unlike normal boats which run on biofuel.

The vessels are also equipped with life-saving equipment and technology to prevent overcrowding. Apart from



having an automatic boat location tracking system and night navigation equipment, the panoramic windows of the vessels provide a visual treat of the scenic backwaters of Kochi.

While the boats have been designed as coaches of Kochi Metro, boat terminals, passenger entry and exit gates, ticket counters and safety measures mirror the features of the metro rail service.

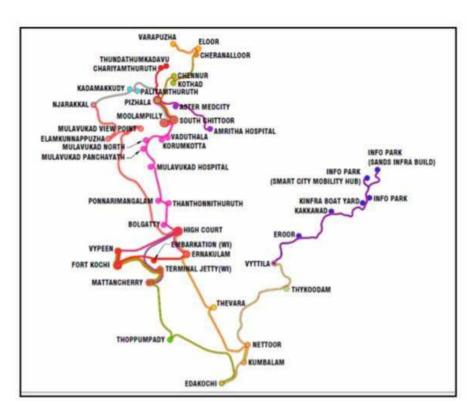
All jetties feature electronic display boards about boat service. Announcements will be made in English, Hindi and Malayalam when the services are operating in full swing. Passenger entry and exit to boats, with air-conditioned cabins, are similar to the system in Kochi metros.

The project is envisaged with 38 jetties, and 78 boats, covering a distance of 76 km. The non-polluting, batterypowered boats are noise-free and produce low waves, unlike traditional ferries. Boat recharging facilities have been provided in all terminals. Costing Rs 7 crore each, these boats can go up to a speed of eight nautical miles per hour and feature aluminium-catamaran hulls. Each boat can carry 100 passengers with a seating capacity of 50.

The boats will operate from 8 am to 11 am and from 4 pm to 7 pm.

At present, Kerala Water
Transport Department is
operating around 200-odd boat
services on different routes,
which mainly connect Vypin
islands to Kochi. Over the
years, however, these services
have been criticised for several
reasons such as for not being
punctual and offering poor
passenger safety.

Apart from the water transport department, there are stray services operated by private players.



#### **FARES**

The minimum fare has been set at Rs 20, and maximum at Rs 40. The passengers can book their tickets using a mobile app. They can also get weekly or monthly passes, starting at Rs 180 to Rs 1,500.

A weekly trip passes with 12 trips is priced at Rs 180 while the monthly trip passes are valid for 30 days having 50 trips would cost Rs 600. The quarterly pass is priced at Rs 1500 and passengers would be able to avail of 150 trips within a period of 90 days.

### PROJECT COST, STAKEHOLDERS

The Kochi Water Metro service is fully funded by the Kerala government and KfW, a German funding agency. The terminals

are built with state-of-theart facilities and the jetties have floating pontoons with automatic docking system technology. The Water Metro is expected to ferry 34,000 passengers every day when fully operational.

The project has been conceived as part of the Kochi Metro Rail service. In 2016, the cost of the water metro had been pegged at Rs 747 crore, but the estimate has been revised to Rs 1136 crore. Boats have been constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited.

The Kochi water metro intends to introduce modern, energyefficient and environmentfriendly boats. It was planned as a feeder service for the Kochi metro rail, which has been in operation since 2017

### 1st Aqua Cruise & Maritime Tourism Awards celebrated in Mumbai



he Agua Cruise Awards, the first of its kind in India,w as organized by Aquarius Marine Services & Consultancy on 12th April was graced by prominent personalities from cruise and maritime domain.

Mr. Rajiv Jalota, Chairman, Mumbai Port Authority (MBPA) and IPA and DG Shipping, Govt of India, was the chief quest.

Mr. R.C. Singh, Chairman, , B.P. Marine Academy was the Guest of Honour

Among others who attended the event were Nalini Gupta, MD - Lotus desnaons (GSA), COSTA Cruises India; Raj Singh, CEO and Founder, Antara Luxury Cruises, Owner of Ganga Vilas; and Jurgen Bailom, CEO and President, Cordelia Cruises.

Other dignitaries who enlightened the evening with their presence were Manoj Singh, Country Head India, Norwegian Cruise Lines; Deepak Shetty, Ex. DG Shipping, Govt. of India; Ratna Chadha,

Co-Founder and Chairperson, Tirun Travel Marketing, India Rep – Royal Caribbean Cruises Group.

The event was curated by Capt. Anish Jaggi, the proprietor of Aquarius Marine Services and Consultancy.

Welcoming the guests, Rajiv Jalota, Chairman, MBPA and IPA and DG Shipping, Gol, expressed his gratitude for the initiative to organize an awards ceremony specifically for the cruise industry. He believed that this would motivate the industry and lead to growth in the future. Jalota also predicted that the awards ceremony would eventually expand to a one- or two-day event.

The aim of the extravaganza was to recognize the contribution of stakeholders and leaders toward the blooming cruise and maritime tourism scenario prevailing in India.

Highlighting the accomplishment of the event, Jurgen Bailom, CEO and President, Cordelia Cruises

said, "My congratulations go out to Capt. Jaggi for his great passion and efforts to pull this event together and organize the marvelous awards event. His passion for this industry is remarkable and I hope this continues. I am proud to be in India as my forecast about India would be, that in the next 5-7 year India is going to be one of the largest cruise hubs. It is great to see many known faces here today, and we together have to work closely and very hard on our future goals to make sure we are very clear and laid out for all international cruise companies to come here."

Talking about the initiative, Nalini Gupta, MD – Lotus Destinations (GSA), COSTA Cruises India, said, "I believe it is a small step now, but it is going to lead to something big with bigger force because cruising is going to be a big way of traveling for Indians."

The event was followed by cocktails and dinner and a performance by the renowned singer Shibani Kashyap.

### **BCBA Customs & Logistics Facilitation Council** inaugurated by Mumbai Customs Zone 1

Taking ahead the WCO theme of 'Nurturing the Next Generation: Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-sharing and Professional Pride in Customs'. BCBA launched the Customs and Logistics Facilitation Council on Wednesday, 29th March 2023 under the leadership of President, Mr. Dushyant Mulani. Principal Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Sunil Jain, was the Chief Guest at the inauguration function of this council whose objective is to nurture the youth in CB Fraternity and create an environment of compliance and professionalism and become the force multiplier in the field of logistics to achieve the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Mr. Sanjeev Harale, Senior VP, BCBA welcomed the Chief Guest, fellow Office Bearers, Board of Advisors, Managing Committee members, Mentors as well as the Youth members who attended in large numbers for the event. He requested the dignitaries to join for the ritual of lighting of the lamp and commence with the program.

President of BCBA, Mr. Dushyant Mulani gave the opening remarks and thanked the audience for the support. Through his thought provoking



speech, he encouraged the youth to introduce and share new ideas for the future of the CB fraternity. It was his brainchild to create this Council and provide thought leadership for Next Gen and make Customs Broking a profession of first choice.

Mr. Pramod Sant, an Industry expert, gave an insight about the theme of WCO as well as motivated them to focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. He assured his full support in mentoring the Next Gen in their future endeavors.

Chief Guest, Mr. Sunil Jain, **Principal Commissioner** of Customs who is also a passionate trainer, delivered a wonderful first session through his in depth knowledge on the topic of Customs and Logistics. He motivated the young generation by sharing

the impressive statistics on the activities carried out by Customs Brokers and their contribution to the Export Import trade and economy of our country. He was outstanding in his session which covered aspects of principles of business and best practices, emotional intelligence and self - regulation. The audience was highly impressed to learn a lot from the senior officer.

There was a round of questions and answers where many members from the audience openly shared their thoughts and views and were highly satisfied with the responses from Mr. Jain. The session ended with a Vote of thanks by Mr. Nirav Thakker, H. Secretary of BCBA followed by High tea. The audience was contended and they showed keen interest to participate in more programs by BCBA in future.

### **Indian Green Port Policy soon with focus on carbon neutrality**

ndia will soon roll out a green port policy to encourage local ports to adopt emerging global standards on carbon neutrality, helping attain the broader longterm national goal of net zero emissions.

Officials said the policy will define the parameters for green port categorisation besides incentives for undertaking the transition toward less polluting fuels and improving efficiency to lower overall emissions.

"The policy will define how the Green Ports model will be woven into with the Public Private Partnership (PPP) models already deployed in ports," a senior government official said.

It will also provide for reduction of emission and have built-in incentives for doing so.

"It will provide for integration with the Green Hydrogen mission with a focus on how to use the clean fuel in the port and shipping industry," the official said.

The Panchamrit (five nectar elements), defined by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the **United Nations Climate Change** Conference in Glasgow (COP26), will be guiding principles of the policy.

Under the Panchamrit, the Prime Minister has set a national target of raising the non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030. India, as part of the plan, will also reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from 2021 to 2030 and become Net Zero carbon emitter by 2070.

"The Indian ports will also have to calculate the annual GreenHouse Gas (GHG) and Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emission. Once the quantity of emissions has been established as the baseline, the domestic ports will then begin their efforts to offset it in a defined time period," the official said.

Indian ports are already proposing to reduce carbon emissions per ton of cargo handled by 30% by 2030.

India will be the first country under IMO Green Voyage 2050 project to conduct a pilot project related to Green Shipping.

### India poised to invite bids for shipowner SCI after sell-off delays

The Indian government is set to call for offers in the I delayed privatisation of Shipping Corp of India (SCI).

Bids will be invited by the middle of May, according to state officials. But a final decision will be taken on 14 April by a panel headed by India's cabinet secretary, they said.

The state's holding of 63.75% in the tanker, gas carrier and bulker owner is up for grabs.

A market cap in Mumbai of INR 39.56bn makes the stake worth INR 25.2bn (\$307m).

The stock was trading at INR 84.95 per share on Tuesday, after plunging from a high of INR 138 last month.

This is still up from the INR 62 level seen at the end of 2019.

The sell-off process was launched in 2020 but was held up by disagreements among stakeholders over the divestment of noncore assets.

This spin-off has now been completed after receiving regulator approval in February.

The demerged company, called SCI Land Assets Ltd, will have to be listed before 23 April and the government plans to do that soon, one of the two officials said.

The finance ministry has not commented.

### MSC reaffirms commitment to embracing alternative fuels at World Ocean Summit 2023



■.N. delegates, shipping representatives, scholars and NGOs gathered in Lisbon for the Economist Impact World Ocean Summit 2023 to convene and discuss the blue economy, marine ecosystems preservation, and pathways forward for climate and ocean stewardship. Issues ranging from reef restoration to alternative shipping fuels, to enhancing ocean data collection were debated in an in-person format for the first time since the pandemic in 2020.

Claudio Abbate, Vice President of Maritime Policy and Government Affairs at MSC

Group, provided industry input from the world's largest shipping company on a panel discussion examining the wider adoption of decarbonized shipping trade routes, also known as green corridors.

At the panel event consisting of distinguished speakers from ports, NGOs, and Government, Claudio delivered MSC's perspectives on lessons learned from the establishment of green corridors, and potential solutions to challenges still facing the industry regarding the wider

adoption of new marine fuels.

The panel also explored the dilemma facing industry stakeholders regarding further investment in new technologies and fuel sources when faced with uncertainty around what fuels will be viable and mainstream over the next decade. When asked by the moderator about this first-mover dilemma facing shippers and fuel suppliers, Claudio declared "we are willing and ready" on further adopting and embracing alternative fuel solutions referencing MSC's commitment to decarbonization.

Speaking about lessons learned from green corridors, Claudio stated "participation to green corridors allows us to share with peers experiences and ideas on the adoption of new technologies and different fuels. Green corridors are certainly a practical way to start the decarbonization pathway but, being present in over 160 countries around the world, we believe that experience gained shall be transferred across the industry because we need global and flexible solutions to achieve our decarbonization goals."

"Also, it is imperative that we keep in mind the necessity for not only supply of alternative fuels at scale, but also efficient and timely accessibility to fuels" while stressing the importance of having an interconnected network of sufficient bunkering infrastructure," said, Claudio AbbateGroup Vice President of Maritime Policy and Government Affairs. While addressing a question from the audience on what the future holds for the sector given the rapidly evolving landscape of regulation and alternative fuels, Claudio stressed the importance of fuel flexibility and maintaining a range of fuel options as what appears to be potentially viable or mainstream today may not be in the future.

### MoPSW looking VGF Scheme change to boost Coastal Shipping

he Shipping Ministry has identified a potential of 340 million tonnes of cargo movement by Coastal Shipping per annum. In a bid to promote Coastal Shipping, the Shipping Ministry has asked the Finance Ministry to consider changes in the Viability Gap Funding Scheme so that operational expenditure (opex) can be supported.

"Under the present guidelines, VGF (viability gap funding) is offered for capital expenditure, but in our assessment, it is required for opex due to the multiplicity of handling points in Coastal Shipping,"

.....an official said, adding that the Shipping Ministry has taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry. The official said the Ministry has sought changes in the VGF norms.

At present, VGF support is available for projects in metro and road construction, development of food grain silos, and setting up of transmission lines, among others.

But according to Shipping Ministry officials, VGF for Coastal Shipping will be required for companies such Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) which are in the business of operating the service on the Indian coastline to help develop the sector.

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman had said that coastal shipping will be promoted as the energy-efficient and lower cost mode of transport, both for passengers and freight, through the public private partnership (PPP) mode with viability gap funding.

The Shipping Ministry has identified a potential of 340 million tonnes of cargo movement by Coastal Shipping

per annum. But it requires commodities to be loaded onto trucks or rail wagons and then moved to the originating ports, from where a round of unloading and reloading on to the ships takes place.



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