



## India: Government under pressure to declare Force Majeure at 12 major ports



Pressure is mounting on the shipping ministry to declare force majeure at the dozen ports run by the Central government amidst a 21-day nationwide lockdown to check the spread of Corona Virus. Force Majeure is a clause that absolves firms from meeting their contractual commitments for reasons beyond their control. Many of India's private ports have declared Force Majeure at their facilities. "It is humanly not possible to practice social distancing in cargo handling where manpower is used in large numbers. Hence, we had requested all port managements to permit only mechanical handling of cargo where the deployment of labour is minimally," K V Krishna Kumar, President, Federation of Associations of Stevedores, wrote in a letter to the Shipping Secretary Gopal Krishna. [Read more...](#)

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**SCREENING OF CARGO VESSELS GATHER PACE AT VARIOUS PORTS**



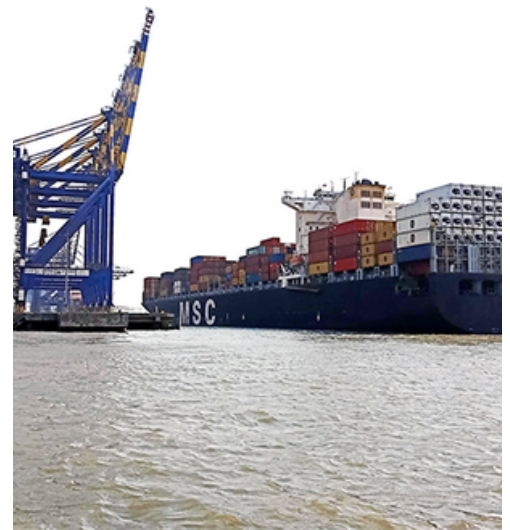
# ‘V.O.C. Port adheres to all safety measures to prevent spreading of COVID-19’

The V.O. Chidambaranar Port has made it clear that it was following all safety and hygienic practices as recommended by the State and the Central Governments while handling cargo. An official statement said operations of seaports are covered under ‘essential services’ and are exempted from lockdown, so that all essential goods and raw materials are made available to the public and the manufacturing units in a seamless manner. Some of the basic commodities handled by the Port include coal for thermal power generation, petroleum products to cater to energy needs, edible oil and food grains and critical medical equipment etc. Bulk commodities and containers are handled by modern equipment requiring minimum human intervention. [Read more...](#)



## India: Ministry of Shipping Says There Is No Impact Of Coronavirus On Cargo Vessels

Ministry of Shipping noted in a latest update that the Coronavirus scare has had no impact on Cargo Vessels. However, as per the directions of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, International cruise vessels arriving from foreign destinations are not allowed to call Indian Ports till 31st March 2020. Ministry of Shipping has issued necessary directions from time to time to all ports to put in place a screening, detection and quarantine system for disembarking Seafarer or cruise passengers, to obtain self declaration from arriving crews/passengers, to install thermal scanners and procure Personal Protection Equipment readiness, N-95 masks, create awareness among the travelers at Ports and Port officials. Further, Major ports under the administrative control of Ministry of Shipping have taken several steps like formation of SoP for disease surveillance/Vessel and crew/passenger management, thermal scanning while moving outside port prohibited area, isolation wards at port hospitals, IEC activities through electronic/print media/LED display boards of port trust and display in port hospital. [Read more...](#)



## Covid-19: India imposes 14-day quarantine on shipping vessels from China

India has imposed a 14-day quarantine on shipping vessels arriving from any port in China and any nation affected from coronavirus. The vessels arriving after 14 days of departure from a coronavirus-infected country are, however, not required to comply with the additional precautionary measures. Stoppages of a vessel at any port of the affected countries only for refuelling will not be considered for the calculation of 14 days. [Read more...](#)





# Screening of cargo vessels gather pace at various ports

To minimise the risk of spread of the deadly coronavirus through foreign trade, the government has screened more than 829 cargo vessels coming from countries worst hit by the virus such as China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iran and Japan, over the last 10 days at the 12 major ports and 65 non-major ports in India. [Read more...](#)



# Gateway Terminals, India's single biggest container terminal, declares force majeure

Gateway Terminals India Private Limited (GTI), the container terminal run by a unit of Danish shipping group A P Moller-Maersk Group A/S, at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust near Mumbai, has declared force majeure in the wake of a three-week lockdown imposed by the government to check the spread of Corona Virus. A force majeure clause absolves firms from meeting their contractual commitments for reasons beyond their control. [Read more...](#)



# Directorate General of Shipping issues advisory to ports for handling vessels

While international travel curbs have been put in place by many countries, including India, vessels will need to function as usual so that transportation of essential commodities is not hampered, the advisory said. The DGS has therefore, put in place a protocol to be followed in dealing with vessels and people on-board, to contain the spread of the disease.

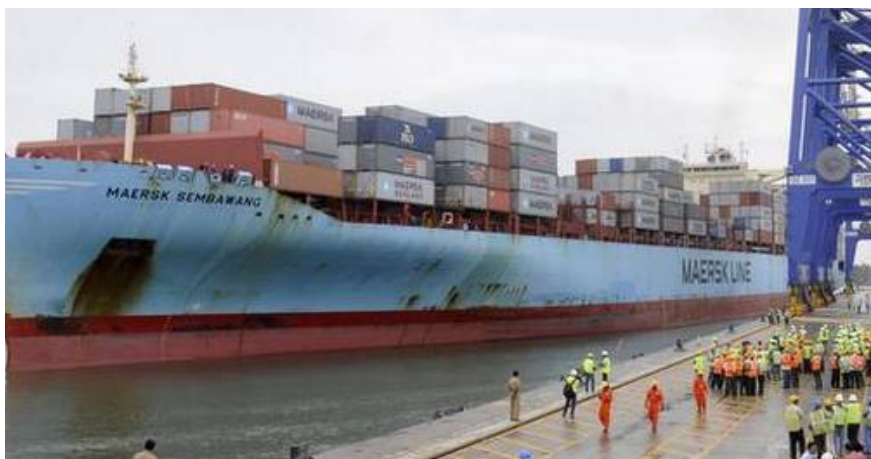
The Directorate General of Shipping has issued an advisory to all major and minor ports in the country to handle vessels arriving at Indian ports in light of the Covid-19 outbreak. While international travel curbs have been put in place by many countries, including India, vessels will need to function as usual so that transportation of essential commodities is not hampered, the advisory said.

The DGS has therefore, put in place a protocol to be followed in dealing with vessels and people on-board, to contain the spread of the disease. [Read more...](#)



# Freight rates set to spike as India puts ships arriving from Corona infected nations on 14-day quarantine

Freight rates for shipping commodities into India from countries requiring a voyage period of less than 14 days is expected to see a huge spike after the country's maritime administration said that ships arriving from ports of Coronavirus infected countries identified for mandatory quarantine would have to wait outside the port till the two week period ends before allowed to unload cargo. [Read more...](#)



## Chennai Port Trust to buy government's 67 per cent stake in Kamarajar Port for about Rs 2,380 cr

In a government-brokered deal, state-owned Chennai Port Trust will buy the 67 per cent stake it does not already own in Kamarajar Port Ltd, located a few kilometres away, from the Central Government for about Rs 2,380 crore.

At this price, the equity of Kamarajar Port is valued at about Rs 3,560 crore. This is a little more than half of the equity valuation derived when Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) acquired a 75 per cent stake in Krishnapatnam Port Co Ltd for an enterprise value of Rs 13,500 crore in January. [Read more...](#)



## Container freight rates for Indian sub-continent ports rise sharply

The dramatic drop calls to ports in the Indian sub-continent has led to a sharp rise container freight rates in the first half of March reflecting the effects of large-scale vessel capacity reductions and equipment shortages.

As carriers impose fresh general rate increases (GRIs), the average westbound spot rates for cargo shipped from India's top container ports, JNPT and Mundra, to Northern Europe and the Western Mediterranean have risen nearly 25% to \$1,250 per teu and \$1,600 per feu for CMA CGM

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# Cochin Port Upgrades Vessel Traffic Management System

The technology group Wärtsilä will upgrade its Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) installed in the Indian port of Cochin, bringing additional benefits such as improved traffic monitoring and control. The system was originally delivered in 2008, and the order with Wärtsilä to upgrade the system was placed in February 2020 by the Cochin Port Trust (CoPT). The upgrading project is scheduled for completion by the end of July 2020. [Read more...](#)



## Ports must be smart, sustainable and safe while aiming for global standards: Mansukh Mandaviya

Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a three day Ports Review Meeting in Mamallapuram, Tamilnadu and asked officials to make Indian ports smart, sustainable and safe while striving to match international standards. Chairpersons of all major ports of India, senior officials of the Ministry of Shipping, and other officials of major ports attended the meeting. "Detailed contemplation on various matters for improving the performance of the major ports, strengthening to directly compete with private or non-major ports, port modernisation, implementing e-governance to make ports faceless and paperless, developing India as 'trans-shipment hub' and Vision-2030 for Maritime Sector was done," says the release. Chairpersons of all major ports presented their respective ports performance with innovative measures, significant achievements, overall financial condition, and future planning for the development of ports. During the Ports Review Meeting, Chairpersons also apprised the Minister of Shipping about the issues in which Ministry level interventions are required. Mandaviya solved various challenges faced by the ports in the meetings and assured all necessary support for the development of Ports. Mandaviya encouraged ports to implement the best practices followed worldwide in the Maritime Sector. [Read more...](#)



## KoPT to register 2-3 pc growth in cargo handling this fiscal

The Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) is expected to finish the current fiscal with a mere 2-3 per cent growth in cargo handling owing to the economic slowdown and novel coronavirus outbreak, officials said on Sunday. The KoPT, which was rechristened as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, had witnessed 10 per cent growth in cargo volume with a pre-tax surplus of Rs 65 crore in the financial year 2018-19. It had handled 63.7 million tonnes of goods last fiscal.

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# All Major Ports in India not to levy Penalties for Delay Caused due to COVID-19

In wake of outbreak of COVID-19 and same being declared as Pandemic, the Government of India has imposed a lockdown for a period of 21 days to contain COVID-19 Pandemic in the country. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an addendum, specifically giving exceptions to the operations of Seaports for cargo movement and inter-state movement of Goods/cargo for inland and exports to ensure regular supply of goods in the country. In accordance to the above and on receipt of representations from various stakeholders, the Ministry of Shipping on 24th March, 2020, issued an advisory to all Major Ports for invoking "Force Majeure" clause on Port activities and Port operations. [Read more...](#)



## DLDS UPDATES

### DMICDC is now NICDC

After announcement of other Industrial Corridor Projects, the mandate of DMICDC Ltd. has been expanded to develop and implement all Industrial Corridor Projects in the country and accordingly, the name has been changed to National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) Limited.

NICDC is mandated to undertake project development activities for Investment Regions / Industrial Areas / Economic Regions / Industrial Nodes and Townships / Integrated Manufacturing Clusters / Stand Alone Projects / Early Bird Projects for various Industrial Corridor Projects and also assists various State Governments.

NICDC undertakes various Project Development activities like Preparation of Master Plans, Feasibility Reports, Detailed Project Reports etc. and acts as an intermediary for the purpose of development and establishment of infrastructure projects through developing and disseminating appropriate financial instruments, negotiating loans and advances of all nature, and formulating schemes for mobilization of resources and extension of credit for infrastructure.



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0120 - 2459753



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