

Initiative launched to standardise and streamline operations of India's major ports

The 'One Nation, One Port Process' initiative is aimed at 'removing inconsistencies in documentation and processes that lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays' in ports; a Logistics Port Performance Index named 'Sagar Ankalan' was also launched by the Union Shipping Ministry

Published - February 27, 2025 08:36 pm IST - NEW DELHI

THE HINDU BUREAU

A "One Nation, One Port Process" initiative to standardise and streamline port operations across India's major ports and improve efficiency was launched by the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways on Thursday. The Ministry said the move aimed to remove inconsistencies in documentation and processes that lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays. In line with these goals, a Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) named "Sagar Ankalan" was also launched for the 2023-24 financial year to record efficiency and global competitiveness in the maritime sector.

The initiatives were launched by Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in Mumbai during a stakeholders meeting to discuss various possibilities from the major announcements made in the Union Budget for the maritime sector.

“With the launch of the ‘One Nation, One Port Process’ and Sagar Ankalan-LPPI Index, India is taking a decisive step towards standardised, efficient, and globally competitive ports. By enhancing port performance and streamlining logistics, we are reducing inefficiencies, cutting carbon footprints, and strengthening India’s position in global trade,” Mr. Sonowal said on the occasion. “Our commitment to modern, green, and smart port infrastructure will not only fuel economic resilience but also ensure a sustainable maritime future for generations to come.”

As ports serve as critical gateways for international and domestic trade, the One Nation, One Port Process initiative aims to harmonise procedures to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and strengthen India’s global trade position, the Ministry said in a statement. “As a first step, the Ministry has standardised documentation with Immigration, the Port Health Organization, and port authorities, reducing container operation documents by 33% (from 143 to 96) and bulk cargo documents by 29% (from 150 to 106).”

The launch of the Bharat Ports Global Consortium and MAITRI (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) app marks a transformative step in strengthening India’s maritime and trade ecosystem. MAITRI plays a crucial role in operationalising the ‘Virtual Trade Corridor’ (VTC) between India and the United Arab Emirates. The initiative aligns with the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) and is expected to expand to BIMSTEC and ASEAN nations,

leveraging AI and Blockchain for efficiency and security, the Ministry said. “By standardising trade documentation and integrating digital solutions, MAITRI will reduce processing time, optimise trade flows, and contribute to sustainable development. MAITRI is set to redefine international trade, positioning India as a leader in global logistics and trade facilitation.”

The maritime stakeholders meet focused on revitalising India's shipbuilding sector in light of recent budgetary announcements. Key discussions centred on increased financial assistance for Indian shipyards, the Ship Breaking Credit Note Scheme and its impact, along with capital infusion to develop new shipbuilding clusters, aiming to boost domestic manufacturing and global competitiveness, the Ministry said.

The Maritime Development Fund, the inclusion of large ships in the Infrastructure Harmonized Master List (HML), and the role of financial institutions and multilateral agencies in facilitating low-cost term financing were key focus areas, it said adding that these measures aim to strengthen India's maritime sector by enhancing financial accessibility, boosting shipbuilding, and improving industry competitiveness.

Published – February 27, 2025 08:36 pm IST