



Over One lakh Crew changes took place in Indian Ports during COVID times to facilitate EXIM trade

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Shipping has facilitated more than 1,00,000 crew change in Indian ports and through charter flights during the peak pandemic crisis that gripped the country. It is the highest number of crew changes in the world. Crew change consists of replacing one of the ship's crew members with another one and involves sign-on the ships and sign-off the ships procedures.

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Maritime sector is among the worst hit sectors due to Corona pandemic. Despite that, all the Indian Ports were operational and providing essential services throughout the pandemic and

main pillar for the smooth supply chain for India and world were the seafarers. Seafarers had to suffer due to closing of Sign on & Sign-off and lockdowns and movement restrictions imposed by the various countries worldwide.

DG Shipping instructed to come up with robust grievances redress mechanism

Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has appreciated the continued efforts done by the DG Shipping during the briefing, especially for facilitating the stranded seafarer during this difficult time. Minister instructed DG Shipping to come up with robust grievances redress mechanism to facilitate the seafarers. He has strongly emphasized to ensure that seafarers should be able to approach the ministry during the difficult time and

no seafarer should suffer due to poor grievance redress system.

To sustain the maritime transportation during the pandemic situation, DG Shipping has taken various initiatives like extensions of various certificates required for sailing, Online E-pass facility for travel etc. "An online utility has been created for verification of seafarers for chartered flights and for uploading details of stranded seafarers along with online ship registrations and online charter licensing", DG, Shipping Shri Amitabh Kumar added while briefing the Minister.

Commendable initiatives by DGS

DG Shipping received communications via emails, tweets, and letters from more than 2000 Maritime Stakeholders and took immediate responsive action to facilitate their needs. E-learning for module courses and online virtual course have also been



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conducted by DG shipping and more than 35,000 students enrolled for e-learning. Online Exit Exam is being conducted for the seafarers after completing online courses and they can now appear in the exam from the comfort of their homes in this unprecedented time of COVID-19 pandemic.



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development of this area. Then it applies to and involves all stakeholders from basic Science to developers of industrial products and services. However, to a limited degree, MBT is a separate business sector in its own right.

This concept shows that the application of biotechnology early in the value chain enables innovations for industries within diverse sectors like

- Pharma,
- Food,
- Nutraceuticals,
- Cosmeceuticals and
- Process industries to

develop products and services.

Major opportunities exist to extend the use of ocean bio-resources in markets for industrial enzymes, pharmaceuticals, functional foods, cosmetics and agricultural products. Further, there are fast emerging applications in new end-use areas including bioprocessing, environmental remediation and monitoring, chemicals, cosmeceuticals, biomaterials and in medical devices: whilst the global population growth continues to fuel the demand for food products from the oceans and seas.

A 2015 market report from market analysts Smithers Rapra "The future of marine biotechnology for industrial applications to 2025" indicates the global market for marine biotechnology has the potential to reach \$4.8 billion by 2020, rising to \$6.4 billion by 2025. This report identifies new applications for marine-derived enzymes and the

use of marine algae and micro-algae in biofuel production as key drivers of the market growth. On the back of extensive aquaculture activity, including culturing macro-algae for hydrocolloids, the Asia-Pacific market is described as the fastest growing one.

More than 80% of living organisms on earth are found in the aquatic ecosystem. The largest ecosystem on the planet is the ocean; it can be divided into photic, pelagic, benthic, epipelagic, and aphotic zones. More than 40

000 different kinds of species are present in the marine environment, and they are classified as microorganisms, sea grasses, algae, corals, and animals.

The marine world is considered as a huge reservoir of various biological active compounds. Marine organisms have the capacity to produce unique compounds due to exposure to exceptionally different oceanic environments, such as temperature, chlorophyll content, salinity, and water quality.

