

Visit of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways to Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 04th & 05th November 2024

Date : 04th November 2024 **Venue** : Chennai Port Authority

On the first day of his two days visit to Chennai, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, **unveiled 4 infrastructure projects of over Rs. 187 crores** which includes two infrastructure projects of Chennai Port Authority totaling approx. Rs. 78 crores and two infrastructure projects at Kamarajar Port Limited totaling over Rs. 109 crores.

The Key highlights of the 4 projects are mentioned below -

1. Chennai Port Project: **Laid Foundation Stone for the Construction of 4 numbers of EXIM Godowns** and development of concrete roads around the EXIM Godowns at an estimated cost of **Rs. 73.91 crores**. This Project aims to meet the growing demand for Covered storage areas inside Chennai Port and ensure safe and secure cargo storage area for port's EXIM trade partners.
2. Chennai Port Project: **Dedication of Coastal Road**, a 300 meters long eastern peripheral road inside Chennai Port build at a cost of approximately **Rs. 4 crores**. This road significantly improves cargo evacuation, especially for coastal cargo and containers from the second international container terminal at Chennai Port, leading to faster turnaround time of trailers & trucks.
3. Kamarajar Port Project: **Inaugurated Doubling of Southern Railway Connectivity**, developed at a cost of **Rs. Rs 88.91 crores**, this project will double the rake handling capacity of KPL from 22 rakes/day to 44 rakes/day and support connectivity needs of future capacity addition projects at the port.
4. Kamarajar Port Project: **Inaugurated Shore Power Supply Facility** for Coal Berth 1 and Coal Berth 2. The facility is established at a cost of **Rs. 20.51 crores** and is a bold step towards sustainable port practices and which will reduce the GHG gas emission of the vessels while at berth by supplying shore electric power to ships instead of vessel generating electricity onboard by burning fossil fuels.

Chennai Port Event: Hon'ble Union Minister paid **tribute to the great mathematician, Late Srinivasa Ramanujam, an employee of then Madras Port Trust, by renaming the 'Clive Battery Quarters' of Chennai Port as 'Ramanujam Quarters'**. This also aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Panch Pran initiatives and underscores port's commitment to remove traces of the colonial mindset.

Port Review Meeting:

Hon'ble Union reviewed the progress of both ports, Chennai Port Authority & Kamarajar Port Limited, in line with the targets set in the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, PM Gati Shakti Initiatives, ease of doing business initiatives and initiatives under corporate social responsibilities. He enquired about the key challenges faced by both organizations and assured government support. He urged port officials to take timely actions for on-time completion of infrastructure projects and contribute towards a development of the Nation.

Shri Sonowal congratulated Chennai Port for their recent global accolades conferred by the International Association of Ports and Harbours, headquartered at Tokyo, Japan, for Sustainability under Community Building Category. Chennai Port initiatives on community empowerment and sustainable growth have set global benchmark and made **Chennai Port the first Indian Port to receive IAPH Sustainability Award**. Chennai Port was adjudged as the Best Port among 71 international competitors, and awarded the first prize in a ceremony conducted by the International Association for Port and Harbour (IAPH) at Hamburg, Germany. The minister also recognized **Kamarajar Port** for their efforts leading to a **Special Commendation from The Economic Times** for their comprehensive efforts in the domain of Corporate Social Responsibilities for the year 2022-2023.

Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways motivated port employees to strive harder, awaken a sense of duty and dedicate whole life for unity and integrity to achieve the visionary goals set by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Maritime Conclave 2024 by The Week at Chennai

Shri Sarbanada Sonowal, during his second and final day of this visit to Chennai, will be delivering a Special Address at "The Week Maritime Conclave 2024" as the Chief Guest of the Event.

The Maritime Conclave 2024 at Chennai is organized by "The Week" on 5th November 2024 wherein maritime leaders from all across the country will converge to share and discuss maritime growth, global and regional connectivity, sustainability, port security, international partnerships, maritime financing and green shipping.





