





SEAFARER INSIGHTS



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- India, Russia agree to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters
- INCOIS launches 'SAMUDRA' mobile app for seafarers and fishing community

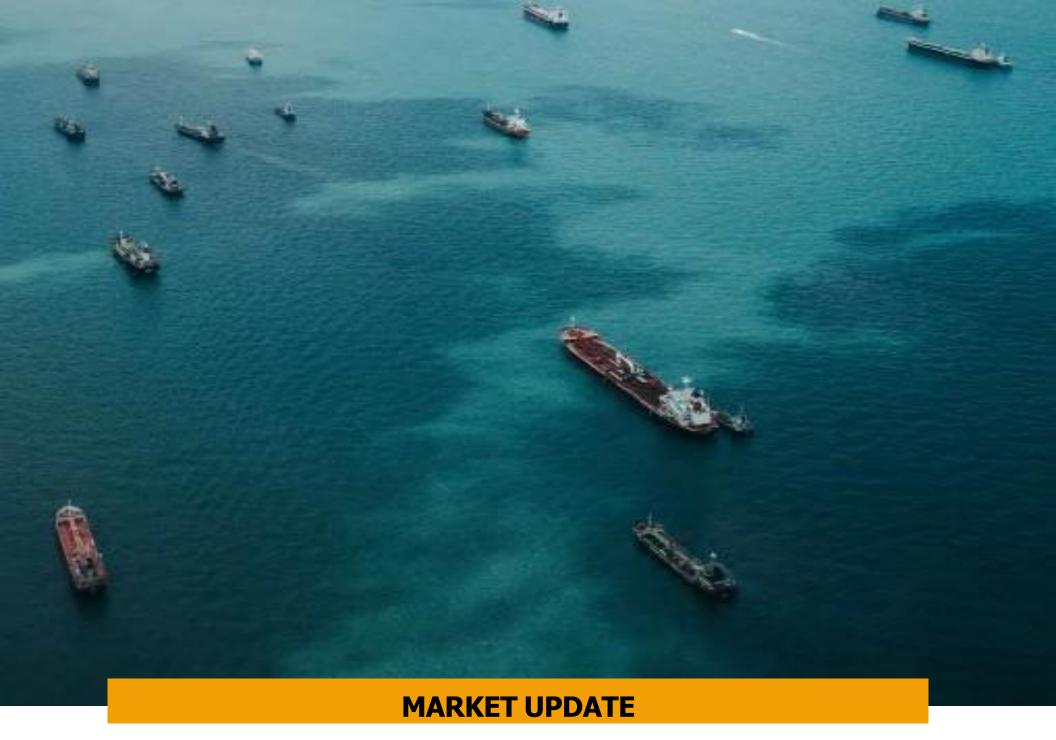


India, Russia agree to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters

• The two sides also agreed to train Indian seafarers in Polar and Arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute, named after GI Admiral Nevelsky, which is equipped with simulator training facilities, in Vladivostok.

India and Russia agreed to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters in this far eastern Russian port as the two sides discussed ways to widen maritime cooperation including possibility of usage of new transport corridors like the Northern Sea Route as well as the Eastern Maritime Corridor. Discussions on the maritime cooperation took place between visiting Union Ports, Shipping and Waters Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of the Russian Federation for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic A O Chekunkov here, according to an official statement. During the meeting, both the leaders discussed wide range of items of maritime communication between India and Russia to widen maritime cooperation including possibility of usage of new transport corridors like the Northern Sea Route (NSR) as well as the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) between Vladivostok and Chennai. The two sides also agreed to train Indian seafarers in Polar and Arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute, named after GI Admiral Nevelsky, which is equipped with simulator training facilities, in Vladivostok, the statement said. Speaking on the occasion, Sonowal said the relationship between Russia and India has deep historical roots and is based on mutual respect and shared interests "We remain committed to maintaining strong ties and fostering strategic cooperation across various sectors. With the support from the Russian government, our team visited the ports of Vladivostok, Vostochny, Nakhodka and Kozmino in May, 2023, which helped us gain insights and collaboration forged during the visits to these ports has contributed to our understanding of requirements for the full-scale operationalisation of the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)," he said. The minister said the proposed workshop between Indian and Russian maritime stakeholders in Chennai will discuss the operationalisation of the EMC by engaging those involved in the trading and transportation of potential commodities such as coking coal, oil, and liquefied natural gas along this corridor. Russian minister Chekunkov said both sides discussed the development of maritime communications between the two countries, as well as the prospects for using the Northern Sea Route. "This dynamic of contacts is the foundation for further strengthening our partnership. Cooperation with the Republic of India is one of the priorities of the international activities of our Ministry; we intend to develop relations with Indian partners in the Far East in all areas of mutual interest," he said.

Source: Indian Express



INCOIS launches 'SAMUDRA' mobile app for seafarers and fishing community

• It will be especially beneficial to the fishing community as it disseminates Potential Fishing Zone advisories which will guide them to the probable fish aggregation locations

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has come out with a new mobile application 'SAMUDRA' - Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories, offering comprehensive information on all ocean related services, useful for both seafarers and the fishing community. Scientists at the institute informed that the mobile app empowers users with real-time updates and critical alerts on oceanic disasters such as tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, and swell surge alerts, for the individuals and communities to stay informed and take necessary precautions towards the protection of lives and property. It will be especially beneficial to the fishing community as it disseminates Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories which will guide them to the probable fish aggregation locations. Much before the latest app launch, INCOIS has been providing fishing zone and Ocean State Forecast (OSF) services through SMS messaging to about seven lakh fishermen across all the coastal states, they said. Fishermen can be guided to the most probable fish aggregation locations enabling them to maximise catch rates, and thus, improve livelihoods. The institute has also been reaching out to the community to popularise the services through interactive sessions covering both the East and West coasts. The workshops have been held in Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh- July 7), Veraval, Gujarat- July 14, Mumbai, Maharashtra- August 3, Digha, West Bengal- August 8 and Chennai, Tamil Nadu- August 11. The OSF services are being provided to various public and private firms like the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, shipping industries, maritime boards, ONGC - Oil & Natural Gas Commission and others. The five-day advanced OSFs will help mariners, fishermen, and coastal communities to plan their activities in advance, mitigating risks and optimizing operations based on predicted ocean conditions. The app also has interactive maps, charts, and animations for enhanced comprehension of complex oceanic phenomena, explained the scientists. "SAMUDRA mobile app is a cutting-edge tool helping users to navigate the marine domain with confidence on their safety, and profitable fishing operations. It embodies the institute vision and mission in serving the nation with ocean data, information, and advisory services. It will catalyse sustainable ocean activities, thus enabling a way forward for the Blue Economy," said INCOIS Director Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala.

Source: The Hindu



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