

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Monthly Summary for the month of July 2026

1. Ease of Doing Business:

i. Exemption for International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Entities from Coastal Shipping Licence Requirements: A statutory order dated 07.07.2026 has been issued by MoPSW under the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 granting exemption to specified IFSC entities from the requirement of obtaining a license under section 11 of the said Act. This exemption would facilitate ship leasing and financing activities from the IFSC, GIFT City.

ii. One Nation One Port Process (ONOP): As a result of the MoPSW's continuous efforts to implement inter-ministerial reforms, the CBIC issued a circular on 11.07.2026 to discontinue the monthly manual reporting of re-exported containers. Additionally, the CBIC issued an advisory on 17.07.2026 to all local Customs at seaports, instructing them to implement processes similar to those followed at Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

2. Approval of Captive Policy:

On 31.07.2026, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the 'Policy for Award of Waterfront and Associated Land to Port-Dependent Industries in Major Ports (Captive Policy)' which, inter-alia, provides for:

- Renewal/extension of eligible concession agreements;
- A framework for capacity expansion by existing captive users through competitive bidding with Right of First Refusal, wherever applicable;
- Award of waterfront and associated land to eligible Government entities;
- Provisions relating to change in cargo profile due to Change in Law and Unforeseen Events

3. Notification of Rules:

- 23 Rules under the **Indian Ports Act, 2025** notified on 21.07.2026 to enhance digitalisation, operational efficiency, environmental protection, safety and seafarer welfare.
- **Vessel Traffic Services Rules, 2026** notified on 07.07.2026 under the Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021, establishing a comprehensive framework for Vessel Traffic Services.
- 19 Rules under the **Merchant Shipping Act, 2025** and **Coastal Shipping Act, 2025** notified in July 2026 to simplify processes, ensure legal certainty, rationalise penalties/inspections and ease licensing.

4. Port Performance:

The traffic handled at Major Ports increased by 6.76% during the current financial year (FY 2026-27) as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Cargo throughput increased from 293.123 Million Tonnes to 312.950 Million Tonnes.

5. Deendayal Port Authority (DPA):

DPA was conferred the India Maritime Award 2026 as the 'Best Port of the Year' on 29.07.2026, in recognition of its

outstanding operational excellence, infrastructure development and contribution to India's maritime sector.

6. Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL): The President of India acting through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India sold 1,20,49,170 equity shares of Cochin Shipyard Limited aggregating to Rs. 1,713.28 Crores, on July 07 and 08, 2026 by way of an offer for sale through the stock exchange mechanism. As a result, the shareholding of the President of India in CSL has reduced to 63.33% from 67.91%.

7. Sagarmala scheme: A total of Rs. 49 Crore was released under Sagarmala scheme to fund various projects during the month of July 2026.

8. As per the BIMCO–ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, India has emerged as the world's **second-largest supplier of seafarers**, rising from **5th position in 2021**.
