



Good Day,

In view of the rapid spread of COVID-19, the process of sign off and repatriation of seafarers has been affected [the] world over due to travel restrictions imposed by various countries, the directorate said. In India, the operation of international flights has been prohibited. Restrictions on domestic travel have also been imposed as a precautionary measure in the country.

The updated advisories complement a raft of instructions local maritime authorities have implemented over the past weeks: imposing a 14-day quarantine mandate on cargo ships arriving from any infected foreign port (where the voyage between the foreign port and an Indian port is less than 14 days); seeking a declaration on the health status of each crew member at least 72 hours prior to estimated vessel arrival; and placing a total ban on crew changes across all Indian ports.

If the maritime declaration of health given by the master is found to be incorrect and not reflecting the factual conditions of health of persons on board the vessel, the master is liable to be prosecuted as per applicable laws. All agents of the vessel shall ensure that this information regarding possible prosecution for incorrect declaration is clearly informed to the vessel before its arrival at Indian ports,” the guidelines stated.

Short-haul ship from the Gulf and Southeast Asian countries have no choice but to wait on the high seas before being allowed to berth. Voyage duration from these countries of origin typically involve between three and seven days.

Although the Indian government declared that lockdown-related actions would not apply to ports and freight transport – these sectors being considered as essential services – heightened public movement restrictions have severely impacted the country’s supply chain ecosystems.

Notwithstanding the invocation of *force majeure*, Ports said it is making all efforts to continue port operations by co-ordinating with various government agencies.

The major types of shipments handled at government ports include POL (crude oil, LPG, LNG), iron ore, fertilizers, coal and container cargo. The only two commodities that did not see a sharp fall in their traffic are iron ore and fertilize.

The most imported commodity during this period remained POL (crude oil, LPG and LNG), followed by coal (thermal steam). this could be due to weak demand of steel in India during lockdown as most manufacturing unit were closed but exports to neighbouring countries rose.

All ports/terminals in India, are working with nominal resources – due to lockdown conditions prevailing in the country. Ports that are mechanized aren't as badly affected by lockdown-related disruption. It is the ports that rely largely on manpower that have found the going tough because of lower manpower availability and social distancing norms.

The Directorate prepared a guidance document for shipping industry to help combat the spread of the Coronavirus. The document contains the advice on managing port entry restrictions, practical protective measures against COVID-19 for seafarers, pre-boarding screening, and education and what to do in suspected cases of infection, hygiene measures for seafarers on ships, managing high risk exposure, case handling, isolation and cleaning, disinfection and waste Management etc.

Standard Operating Procedures Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew change for seafarer sign-on and sign-off at Indian Port is provided in the order which has to be followed by Ship owner / Recruitment and Placement Service (RPS) Each location is awaiting further guidelines for the Local PHO / FRRO / Immigrations / Municipal co-operations on their processes and information on Quarantine facilities and sample collections centers.

- Transport arrangements for crew drop off needs special permission for Local / Interstate arrangements.
- The driver / Crew needs to obtain a local travel pass until hometown

- The Car to be sanitized prior / after dropping the crew
- Driver to report to the authority and to be quarantined for 14 days after drop off of crew.

Quarantine rules for vessels similar to previous.

- **Portwise upto date information provided below.**

CHENNAI / KATTUPALLI PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Port is operational, with limited resource, thus operational delays expected. In case vessel has completed 14 days from ATS of the last called Covid effected ports, then vessel is subject to Quarantine or if 14 days are completed from the last ATS port arrival Chennai, vessel will be cleared for berthing subject to complying Covid-19 procedure.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** All inter-state and inter-district services shall be operated but E-pass is required.
- **Operations affected:** No FM declared yet. Port is working with minimum number of man powers. All public transport services and movement in private cars restricted.

COCHIN PORT

- **Commercial operations:** As of now the port operations are going smoothly.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** All in/out movements are strictly complying with the SOP / CIRCULAR issued by the Authorities. Except essential services, all other activities banned, State Transport/Rail/Domestic Flights cancelled/Private transport restricted.
- **Operations affected:** Terminal operations and container vessels berthing is normal. Container in & out movement facing challenges due to prevailing road transportation restriction hence terminal congestion forecasted. Stevedores facing manpower shortage.

DAHEJ

- **Commercial operations:** As of now the port operations are going smoothly.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Expected delays in operation view shortage of labour and logistical constrain view lockdown.
- **Operations affected:** FM Declared till further notice. Port operations affected due to limited manpower. Vessels inward/ outward movement not restricted.

DHAMRA PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Vessels calling from Covid affected countries to be quarantined for a period of 14 days at anchorage based on the ATS of the last call of affected port. All cargo operations at mechanical berth is back to normal. Manual vessels operations are working with limited labour attending cargo operations.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Rake movement also returned to normal. No fresh issue noted. Truck movement is expected to effected badly.
- **Operations affected:** FM Declared on 24 March still in effect until next update. Port operations are normal with limited staffs view nationwide lockdown. Port stevedores are facing shortage of manpower due to current lockdown and transportation restrictions. Dhamra port introduces mooring charges across all gross tonnage slabs for all vessels calling DPCL w.e.f on or after 15th May 2020 0001 hours.

ENNORE PORT

- **Commercial operations:** As of now the port operations are going smoothly. In case vessel has completed 14 days from ATS of the last call Covid effected ports, then vessel is subject to quarantine or if 14 days are completed from the last ATS port arrival Ennore, vessel will be cleared for berthing subject to complying Covid-19 procedure as per DG order.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** All the State Borders are closed in view of nationwide lockdown. E-pass is mandatory. All inter-state and inter-district services shall be operated but E-pass is required. All public transport services and movement in private cars restricted. Inward & Outward transport movements are unaffected. Container trailer movements are going on.
- **Operations affected:** Port operations are affected. Vessels inward/ outward movements not restricted but reported to be slow.

NOTE: Only CICTPL TERMINAL (CHETTINAD INTERNATIONAL COAL TERMINAL PVT.LTD declared FM and are working with limited manpower.

GANGAVARAM PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Presently no operational delays for the vessels being berthed at Gangavaram port. All mechanical operated berths vessels operations are running normally.
- **Operations affected:** in view of the “Pandemic” (World Wide Epidemic) Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), Gangavaram port has notify without prejudice, that the “Force Majeure Event” has ceased with immediate effect, (i.e. from 20th June 2020), and Port services and operations are now gradually resuming to normalcy, although the COVID-19 Pandemic situation is very much there, evolving, COVID-19 positive cases rising daily and not controlled. We further notify you once again that GPL shall not assume any liability and/or responsibility in respect of the above “Force Majeure Event” from 23rd March 2020 to 20th June 2020 (inclusive of both the dates). Due to lack of manpower and resources like cargo transport/fuel/ lifting equipment cargo receivers and stevedores are not willing to berth the vessels.

GOA / NEW MANGALORE

- **Commercial operations:** No FM declared. Berthing is allowed. Port is working. Mechanical and non-mechanical - both are operating. Steel parcels started loading.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Except essential services, all other activities banned, State Transport/Rail/Domestic Flights cancelled/Private transport restricted. No permission will be granted for supply of provisions/essentials and garbage discharge for any vessel.
- **Operations affected:** Although operation is reportedly slow. Port is working normally, and the Cargo operation is going on with slow discharge rate. Berthing and sailing of Vsl on mail, besides nothing substantial. Due to lockdown Dock workers, port users are facing a challenge to reach work place, thus leading to shortage of labors.

GOPALPUR PORT

- **Commercial operations:** All cargo operations are taking place normally with slight effect with cargo operations. Berthing and cargo operations are expected to be normal.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Except essential services, all other activities banned, State Transport/Rail/Domestic Flights cancelled/Private

transport restricted. Truck movement is expected to effected badly.

- **Operations affected:** FM Declared till further notice. Berthing and cargo operations are expected to be normal. Port operating with limited manpower. Vessels inward/ outward movements not restricted.

HALDIA PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Berthing of vessels at many berths have started and cargo operations taking place but with lot of restrictions. Though cargo operations are taking , normalcy is still not restored completely.
- **Operations affected:** No FM declared. Work at all berths has started with berthing and sailing of vessels taking place with lot of restrictions. Port operation is normal, working with limited resource.

KAKINADA PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Presently all operations inside Kakinada Deep Water Port are taking place normally for manual and mechanical vessels . Kakinada Anchorage port operations are resumed working from 15.04.2020 with limited labour and barges.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Inward Outward transport movements are affected as borders are ceased.
- **Operations affected:** No FM declared yet. All Edible oil and chemical tankers and container vessels operation are running normally. All mechanical operated berths i.e. coal and fertilizer vessels are running normally. Manual cargo vessels loading and unloading facing delayed. Due to lack of manpower and resources like cargo transport/fuel/ lifting equipment cargo receivers and stevedores are not willing to berth the vessels.

KANDLA PORT

- **Commercial operations:** The port is working as usual with vessels which need mechanical handling like coal, timber, etc.etc. and break bulk vessels are affected partially and mainly due to labour mobility
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** The Govt of Gujarat have issued a circular imposing complete ban on all types of vehicular movement including “essential service category in between 1100 hrs to 1700 hrs. Accordingly, the port have changed shift timings.
Trade Association / Chamber of Commerce/ Agent Association etc requested port to declare Force Majeure and shall update you with the outcome.
- **Operations affected:** All agencies and associations are demanding to declare “Force Majeure” but the same is not honoured since the port and its operations are declared under “essential service category”. Operations continued as usual. Pre berthing delays expected. Terminal functioning with no delays currently, however stevedores are facing shortage of manpower due to current lockdown.

KARAIKAL

- **Commercial operations:** As of now the port operations are going smoothly and all in/out movements are strictly comply with the SOP / CIRCULAR issued by the Authorities.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** All inter-state and inter-district services shall not be operated. All public transport services and movement in private cars restricted.
- **Operations affected:** FM declared until further notice. Vessel inward /outward, transport movements are slow. Port is working with limited manpower, so port operation is slow.

KOLKATA PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Port operations are normal with limited staffs due nationwide lockdown.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** All inbound/out bound transport is restricted
- **Operations affected:** Inward outward movements for container vessels are permitted. Bulk and break bulk vessels are restricted. Port stevedores are facing shortage of manpower due to current lockdown and transportation restrictions.

KRISHNAPATNAM PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Mechanical berths (Berth no : 7 and 8) vessels and container vessels are presently working without any issues. Manual vessels are also berthing at all available berths with limited labour. Cargo operations are taking place without much impact.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Inward and outward transport movements are unaffected. Container trailer movements are going on.
- **Operations affected:** FM Declared on 24 March till further notice. Presently no operational delays for the vessels being berthed at Krishnapatnam Port. All mechanical operated berths vessels operations are running normally. Due to lack of manpower and resources like cargo transport/ fuel/lifting equipment cargo receivers and stevedores are not willing to berth the vessels.

MUMBAI

- **Commercial operations:** As on date no such delays. Operating Normally. Port is working but with operational delays as limited number of port and private labors are working due to City closed. There are negligible in/out movements of the cargo and the cargo is been discharged in port storage area only, hence facing shortage for cargo storage inside the port. Most of the receivers have started taking deliveries of their cargo. Mumbai City and Suburbs are declared HOTSPOT area. Commercial transport is restricted. Further modalities are being worked by the port officials for movement of ships, men and material.
- **Operations affected:** Port is reportedly working. Expected delays in operation Due to restriction in public movements, port / stevedore / transporter workers are facing problem in reaching the port hence facing manpower shortage.

MUNDRA PORT

- **Commercial operations:** FM declared until further notice. Vsl inward/ outward movements unaffected. Port is declared Open with normal working but Adani Management has declared "Force Majeure" which is interpreted that all Adani Ports across India namely Mundra, Dahej, Hazira, Krishnapatnam, Kattupalli & Dhamra come under this notifications and that the Ports are not responsible for delays or extra costs and / or consequences. The CFS are working with limited staff and cargo flows are slow because of factories being shut.
- **Operations affected:** Cargo operation is very slow due to labour shortage. Vsl which are currently inside the port is operating at a very slow discharge rate and labour shortage. Terminal functioning with no delays currently, however stevedores are facing shortage of manpower due to current lockdown.

NEW MANGALORE

- **Commercial operations:** Operating Normally

- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Cargo movements are completely restricted.
- **Operations affected:** No FM declared yet. Operating with slow discharge rate due to lack of manpower. Berthing & sailing of vessels on Mail. Most of cargo is handled at mechanized berth. Pipeline vessels are working normal.

PORT REDI

- **Commercial operations:** FM Declared till 31 March. All operations stopped. port is not working currently.

PARADIP PORT

- **Commercial operations:** All cargo operations are taking place with minimum effect and cargo operations taking place as usual. Since cargo is stored inside the port, we do not anticipate any major effect with respect to cargo operations.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** Internal Port Transport vehicles started ops and work resumed back to normal. Very less dumper drivers are present, so the port operations are affected in terms of efficiency since 25th March.
- **Operations affected:** No FM declared. Port operations are normal with limited staffs view nationwide lockdown. Except mechanic berths, all berths are affected. Port is functioning on limited scale. Operating delay due to labour shortage. Paradip International Cargo Terminal has declared FM. At PICT they are berthing only 1 vessel at one time due to shortage of labour.

PIPVAV PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Operating delay due to labour shortage
- **Operations affected:** No FM declared. Vsl inward/outward movements are going on but cargo operation is affected due to stoppage of local transportation and limited manpower. All port staff reportedly facing issues from local police. Ultratech jetty is not operational until further notice.

TUTICORIN PORT

- **Commercial operations:** As of now the port operations are going smoothly and all in/out movements are strictly complying with the SOP / CIRCULAR issued by the Authorities.
- **Forwarding / Deliveries:** All inter-state and inter-district services shall not be operated. All public transport services and movements in private cars restricted.
- **Operations affected:** FM still not declared. All vessels including container vessels are berthing without any issues. All import vessels discharging cargoes are dumped at inside port stack yard and outside warehouses. Breakbulk vessels are not facing any delays due to any port restriction sometimes due to non-readiness of the cargo documents vessels will be waiting for a maximum upto one week period. With regards to export container vessels two vessels have been omitted her voyages during last week due to non-availability of export containers b'coz inter-district border restriction empty container trucks are not moving to pick-up cargoes. Port is working with minimum number of man powers. Stevedore's / Shipper's association wrote a letter to Shipping Ministry to consider for suspending the port operation due to safety of their employees. Operating delay due to labour shortage

NOTE: PORT IS WORKING WITH MINIMUM NUMBER OF MANPOWER.

If vessel's/ crew's arrival history from the infected countries within 14 days, crew to be equipped with fully body PPE suite along with shoe cover, gloves, mask and safety goggles while pilot boarding the vessel at anchorage. Otherwise, port will allow the vessel to berth only after 14 days period from vessel/crew departure from the infected country.

VIZAG PORT

- **Commercial operations:** Presently all mechanical berths ie VGCB berth, Adani, IOB, VSPL besides Tanker vessels are working well. Manual vessels at East & West Quay berths are working now with private labour inside port. Other waiting vessels are also planned to berth asap with engagement of private labour.
- **Operations affected:** Force Majeure circular issued by Vizagapatam Chamber of Commerce. Presently no operational delays for the vessels being berthed at Visakhapatnam Port. All Liquid/LPG Tankers and Container vessels operations are running normally, presently anticipating 02 to 03 days berthing delays due to congestion.

With Best Regards

**SAI Shipping, India
Shipping Agents.**