



MoU Signed Between Vadhvan Port Project Ltd. and DVET, Maharashtra to Expand Skill Development in Vadhvan Region

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal interacts with trainees and reviews ongoing skilling initiatives

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A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, between Vadhvan Port Project Ltd. (VPPL) and the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET), Government of Maharashtra, to strengthen skill development and vocational training in the Vadhvan region.

The MoU provides for the conduct of short-term skill courses at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme. Under this collaboration, youth from 44 selected villages in the Vadhvan region will receive training free of cost, with the objective of enhancing employability and creating a locally skilled workforce aligned with port-led development.

On the occasion, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal reviewed the progress of the Vadhvan Port Skilling Program and interacted with participating students. Certificates were awarded to students of the second batch who successfully completed a four-week Custom Documentation course comprising 100 hours of classroom and practical training. The course focuses on customs processes, documentation, and procedures essential for port operations. Internship opportunities have also been extended to students from the first batch following successful completion of their training.

Further, confirmation letters were presented to 11 students enrolled in the GP Rating Pre-Sea Training Course conducted in collaboration with the Shipping Corporation of India-Maritime Training Institute (SCI-MTI). The six-month residential course is approved by the Directorate General of Shipping. The full course fee of ₹2.5 lakh per candidate is being borne by VPPL. On successful completion and qualifying the Exit Examination conducted by the Board of Examination for Seafarers Trust (BEST), candidates will be issued certification by BEST.

In another development, a Letter of Award was handed over to Gateway Terminals India for implementation of the Kaushalya Nirmiti Yojana Skill Development Program. The initiative provides fully residential training for youth from the Vadhvan region at a newly developed training centre at Sheva under Jawaharlal Nehru Port. The programme trains candidates as Container Terminal Associates in areas such as health, safety, security and environment, operations, and engineering. The six-month training is fully funded, followed by a one-year apprenticeship during which trainees are entitled to a stipend.

To facilitate outreach and access, VPPL has introduced a dedicated chatbot to support registration and provide real-time information on courses. The programme has recorded over 45,878 registrations to date. Currently, 162 batches comprising over 6,000 students are undergoing training across 28 courses. A designated training partner has been engaged for implementation.

VPPL has also undertaken targeted skilling initiatives for the fishing community in collaboration with specialised institutions, including open sea cage training and fish processing and value addition programmes. Based on feedback from field surveys, such courses will continue to be conducted for fishermen in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said that skill development remains central to India's maritime growth and to the vision of a skilled and self-reliant India. He stated that initiatives such as the Vadhvan Port Skilling Program aim to equip local youth with relevant skills and create employment opportunities, while supporting the broader port-led development agenda.

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