



Kamarajar Port Becomes India's Second Major Port with 18-Metre Draft Capability, Boosting India's Maritime Competitiveness

Capital Dredging Phase VI completed with an investment of ₹440 crore, Set to Lower Logistical Cost & Efficiency

Port can now handle fully laden Capesize vessels carrying cargo parcels of up to 1,70,000 DWT

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Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) has emerged as a deep-water port capable of handling Capesize vessels, with the successful completion of its Capital Dredging Phase VI project. With an operational draft of 18.0 metres, the Port can now accommodate vessels carrying cargo parcels of up to 1,70,000 DWT. With this achievement, Kamarajar Port becomes the **second Major Port of the country, after Visakhapatnam Port, to offer a draft of 18 metres.**

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's maritime sector is undergoing a historic transformation. Guided by the vision of Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, we are building world-class ports, strengthening logistics, enhancing global competitiveness and positioning India as a leading maritime nation. The emergence of Kamarajar Port as the country's second Major Port with an 18-metre draft is another milestone in this journey of creating modern, future-ready maritime infrastructure that will power India's economic growth and global trade," said **Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.**

The project, taken up in line with the vision of the Government of India to make Kamarajar Port '**Cape Compliant**', involved deepening of the outer approach channel from 20.0 m to 23.0 m, the inner entrance channel from 19.0 m to 22.0 m, alongside berths to handle 18m draft and the harbour basin along with associated navigational areas, at an investment of about **₹440 crore.**

"The successful completion of Capital Dredging Phase VI has transformed Kamarajar Port into a deep-draft, Cape Compliant port capable of handling fully laden Capesize vessels of up to 1,70,000 DWT. This achievement will significantly improve cargo-handling efficiency, reduce logistics costs, enhance ease of doing business and strengthen the port's role as a key gateway for India's EXIM trade. I congratulate the entire team of Kamarajar Port Limited for delivering this strategically important project, which further reinforces India's march towards becoming a global maritime powerhouse," added Sonowal.

The enhanced draft capability will enable shipping lines to deploy larger vessels, resulting in lower freight costs through economies of scale, improved operational efficiency and increased cargo-handling capacity. It will provide significant economic benefits to the trade of the region, strengthen the Port's

competitiveness vis-à-vis domestic and international ports, and support the growing requirements of India's EXIM trade. The Cape Compliant depth places Kamarajar Port in the league of international ports in bulk cargo handling.

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