



Government Announces Measures to Resolve Shipping Woes

Source: PIB

An inter-ministerial meeting led by the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry addressed concerns over rising freight costs, container shortages, and port congestion.

- **Key Decisions from the Meeting: Significant reductions in shipping costs with measures like allowing free storage of empty containers at [Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority \(JNPA\)](#) for up to 90 days.**
 - JNPA in Navi Mumbai is a premier container port, handling about **50% of India's containerized cargo**. It ranks **26th among the world's top 100 container ports** and connects to over 200 global ports.
 - **Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), a Navratna Company, has reduced loading, handling, and storage fees.**
 - [Shipping Corporation of India \(SCI\)](#) announced chartering of ships to increase container capacity by 9,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), along with plans to acquire five more container ships.
 - Faster custom clearances through simultaneous screening of two 20 ft containers at ports, implemented by the [Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs \(CBIC\)](#).
 - Private container yards will now have to register with GST authorities to curb illegal profiteering and prevent cash transactions.
- Freight forwarder associations, and exporters expressed satisfaction, stating that the government's measures will **ease logistical bottlenecks and enhance trade flow.**

Read more: [Container Port Performance Index \(CPPI\) 2023](#)

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