

Govt plans green fuel port usage, bunkering in net-zero target push

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The ministry of ports, shipping, and waterways (MoPSW) on Wednesday launched green port guidelines for India's 12 major ports in another push to decarbonise the transport sector, a major contributor to the country's carbon emissions.

According to the Harit Sagar guidelines, the ministry will push for data monitoring based on environmental performance indicators. "This also covers aspects of the National Green Hydrogen Mission pertaining to ports, development of green hydrogen facility, LNG bunkering, offshore wind energy, and provides provision for adopting global green reporting initiative standard," it said. The guidelines focus on minimising the impact on biotic components of the harbour ecosystem. "It lays emphasis on use of clean, green energy in port operation, developing port capabilities for storage, handling and



bunkering greener fuels like green hydrogen, green ammonia, green methanol, ethanol, etc.," a statement by the ministry said.

The objective of the guidelines is to minimise waste through principles, such as reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle to attain zero waste discharge from port operations. MoPSW Secretary Sudhansh Pant said, "Our four major ports — Deendayal Port, Visakhapatnam Port, New Mangalore Port, and VOC Port — are generating more renewable energy than their demand. Our

TURNING BLUE ECONOMY GREEN: ACTION PLAN

► **Ships (EXIM/coastal) that are using cleaner fuel and vessels having shore power reception facility** may get queue priority or rebate in berth dues

► **Ports to make efforts to achieve the target** for EVs, ports equipment

► **50% electrification of ports by 2030**, which is to be increased to over 90% by 2047

► **Green belt area under port authority to be increased by over 20%** by 2030 and 33% by 2047 of the port area

ports will now be able to evaluate themselves on the environmental indicators to know their capability in the environmental aspects."

Green hydrogen is defined as hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity. The ministry aims to develop Kandla, Paradip, and Tuticorin ports as green hydrogen hubs in the coming years. Senior officials present at the event said while proliferating green hydrogen in the Indian shipping sector was a distant objective, there

was huge demand in European markets for the green fuel and the Centre was exploring export opportunities in the sector. The draft policy in 2022 had explored options such as viability gap funding for capital-intensive projects and establishing a carbon cess on port operators and users which would be used to fund green initiatives. MoPSW Minister Sarbananda Sonowal plans to raise the share of green energy to 60 per cent of the total power demand of each of its major ports from less than 10 per cent.