

Centre looks to make India green shipping hub by 2030

New policy launched to convert tugboats at major ports into green tugs

DHRUVAKSH SAHA

New Delhi, 22 March

The Centre will start the process of turning all of India's tugboats into green tugs to reduce transport carbon emissions and become a global hub for green shipping by 2030. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday launched the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTP).

Under the new policy, Green Hybrid Tugs will be introduced, which will be powered by green hybrid propulsion systems. The eventual plan will be to adopt non-fossil fuel solutions such as methanol, ammonia, and hydrogen.

"The ministry has set a target for the initial green tugs to start working in all major ports by 2025. At least 50 per



Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates the country's first National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping in Gurugram on Wednesday

cent of all tugs are likely to be converted into green tugs by 2030, which will considerably reduce emission, as the country moves towards achieving sustainable development," the shipping ministry said.

India is the first country selected under the International Maritime Organisation's Green Voyage 2050 project to conduct a pilot

project related to green shipping. The ministry said Paradip Port, Deendayal Port, and VO Chidambaram Port will be developed as hydrogen hubs — those capable of handling, storing and generating green hydrogen by 2030. The minister also inaugurated the country's first Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS), which has been

created in collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute. It has been created to work towards meeting India's obligations under the Paris Agreement by developing a framework and alternative technology adoption framework for green shipping in the country.

The NCoEGPS will work on 10 crucial projects, including the development of a regulatory framework for the usage of wind energy for marine applications, and identifying a suitable biofuel for blending with conventional marine fuels.

The minister said the green shipping centre will also work on identifying a fuel cell technology for long-haul shipping, along with a regulatory framework for the transportation of hydrogen, as India looks to become an exporter of green hydrogen.