

MESSAGE

The people of India have given a decisive mandate in the 2014 general elections. The popular verdict is a manifestation of the trust and confidence Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi enjoys among all segments of the society. It is a vote of hope & aspirations which the NDA government under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi is committed to fulfill in the next five years.

I earnestly believe that the social media has an important role to play in the task of nation building. We in the ministry of Shipping too have an onerous task in hand and it will be our endeavour to develop the maritime strength of our country which is crucial for India's socio-economic progress. Efficient ports, increasing India's share in the global shipping, promoting coastal shipping and strengthening our Inland waterways are among our main goals.

Technological innovations would lead the path to socio-economic transformation of all sections of the society. E-governance and transparency will be the hallmark in our handling of all the departments.

This website is a vital tool of two-way communication between the ministry and the people.

We welcome your inputs and innovative ideas in developing our waterways as an important mode of transport for both passenger and cargo traffic in prominent rivers, especially river Ganga, and backwaters in different parts of India.

Inland waterways are one of the cheapest means of transport and are most suitable for carrying heavy goods. It is a fuel-efficient and eco-friendly mode of transport. But waterways transport contributes less than 1% to the overall goods transport in the country. India has 14,500 kms. of navigable waterways comprising rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc.

At present, 3,700 kms. of major rivers are navigable by mechanized vessels, out of which only 2,000 kms. are actually used. Similarly, out of 4,300 kms. of navigable canals, only 900 kms. is navigable by mechanized vessels.

We believe that introduction of riverfront and seashore development for all urban areas will help achieve greener cities and develop tourism in major cities

including Varanasi, Kanpur, and Allahabad along the Ganga.

We are committed to making a new beginning in developing a state-of-the-art shipping industry in India.

Our website, I am sure will provide you an opportunity to interact with us and exchange information about all the facets of the Ministry of Shipping. We will ensure complete transparency and public scrutiny in the functioning of all our departments.

Please join us in our collective efforts to realize the dream of our visionary leader Shri Narendra Modi whose mission is:

EK BHARAT: SAKSHAM BHARAT: SRESHT BHARAT

NITIN GADKARI