



Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India

“Challenges faced by seafarers and
identification of best practices during
the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia”

1st November, 2020



Rights of seafarers already covered in Merchant Shipping Act, 1958

Right for identity & sea service contract	Section 99 & 100
Prohibition for receipt of remuneration from seafarer for employment	Section 97
Prohibition against discrimination	Section 97 A
Medical Examination	Section 98
Repatriation	Section 121 – 123
Rights of seafarers in respect of wages and settlement of wages	Section 130 – 148
Right to food, water & sufficient provisions, weights & measures onboard	Section 168 – 172
Medical Assistance	Section 173 – 174
Accommodation for seafarers	Section 175
Personnel effects of missing / deceased seafarers	Section 187

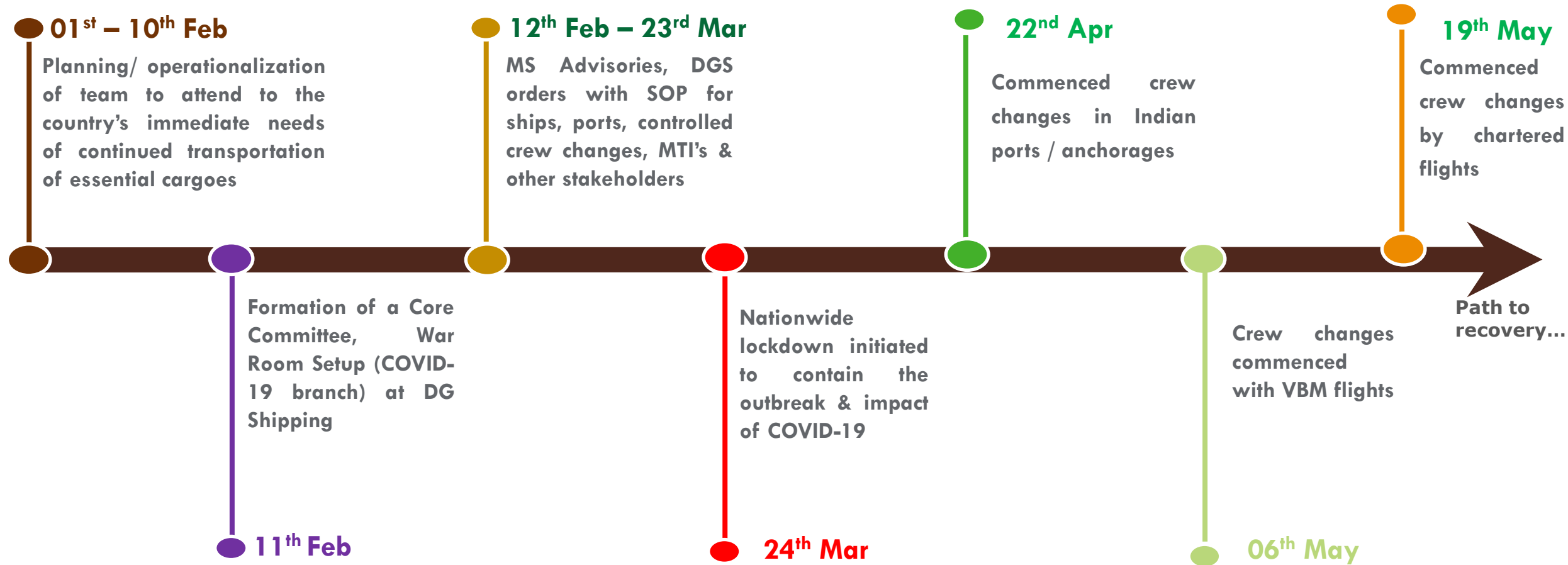
Response to Covid-19 Pandemic- Continued efforts for ships operations and seafarers rights under MLC

Merchant Shipping is one of the most affected sectors in the crisis unleashed by the pandemic.

Directorate General of Shipping being the Indian Maritime Administration Authority has been very proactive in handling the COVID-19 crisis.

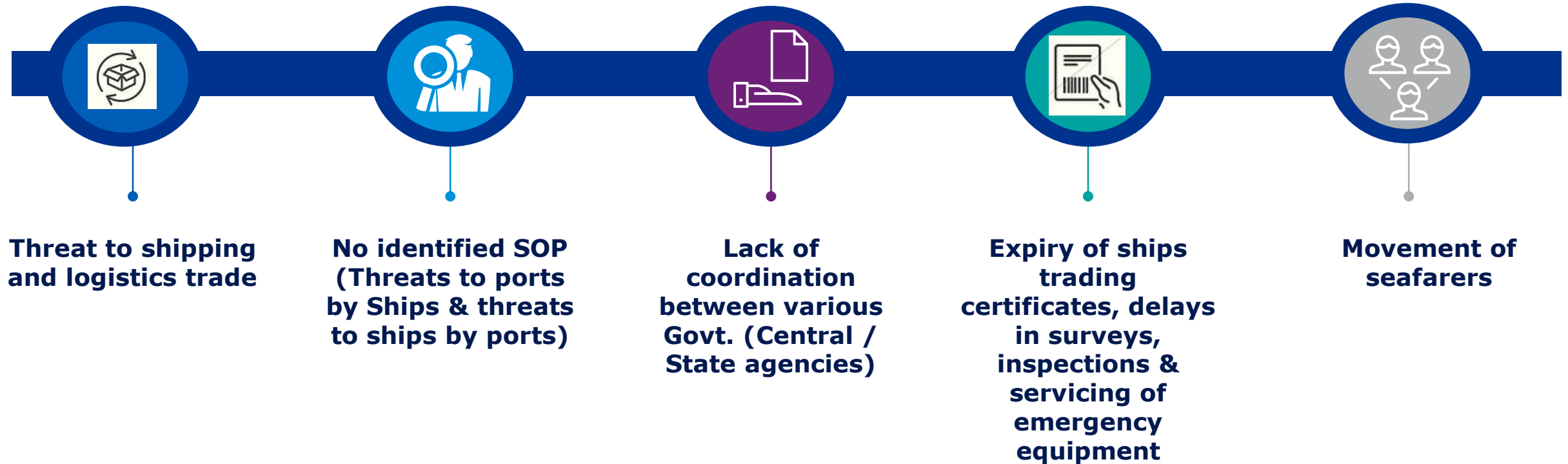
- **50+ Orders / Circulars / Notices / Advisories** issued by Directorate General of Shipping since the beginning of nation wide lockdown in India on 23.03.2020.
- Standard Operating Procedures (**SoPs**) for controlled crew change at Indian ports / anchorages issued for the benefit of seafarers.
- COVID-19 testing facilities, isolation centers, tie-up with COVID-19 treatment centers & quarantine centers established at all major ports.
- **Extension** provided to Seafarers Identity books (CDC) and also to Certificates of Proficiency / Competency (CoP / CoC).
- Extension provided to ships' statutory certificates, surveys, ship sanitation certificate granted.

Ministry of Shipping / DG Shipping has played a paramount role in augmenting the country's efforts to fight COVID-19 by timely & efficient inception, formulation, implementation & continuous improvement of "Sea Transportations & Port Operations"



To maintain the supply of essential items and provide effective support in fight against COVID 19 pandemic, certain services were declared as essential including transport service for carriage of goods by water. However, Maritime Industry and dependent stakeholders faced immense difficulty in carrying out there operations

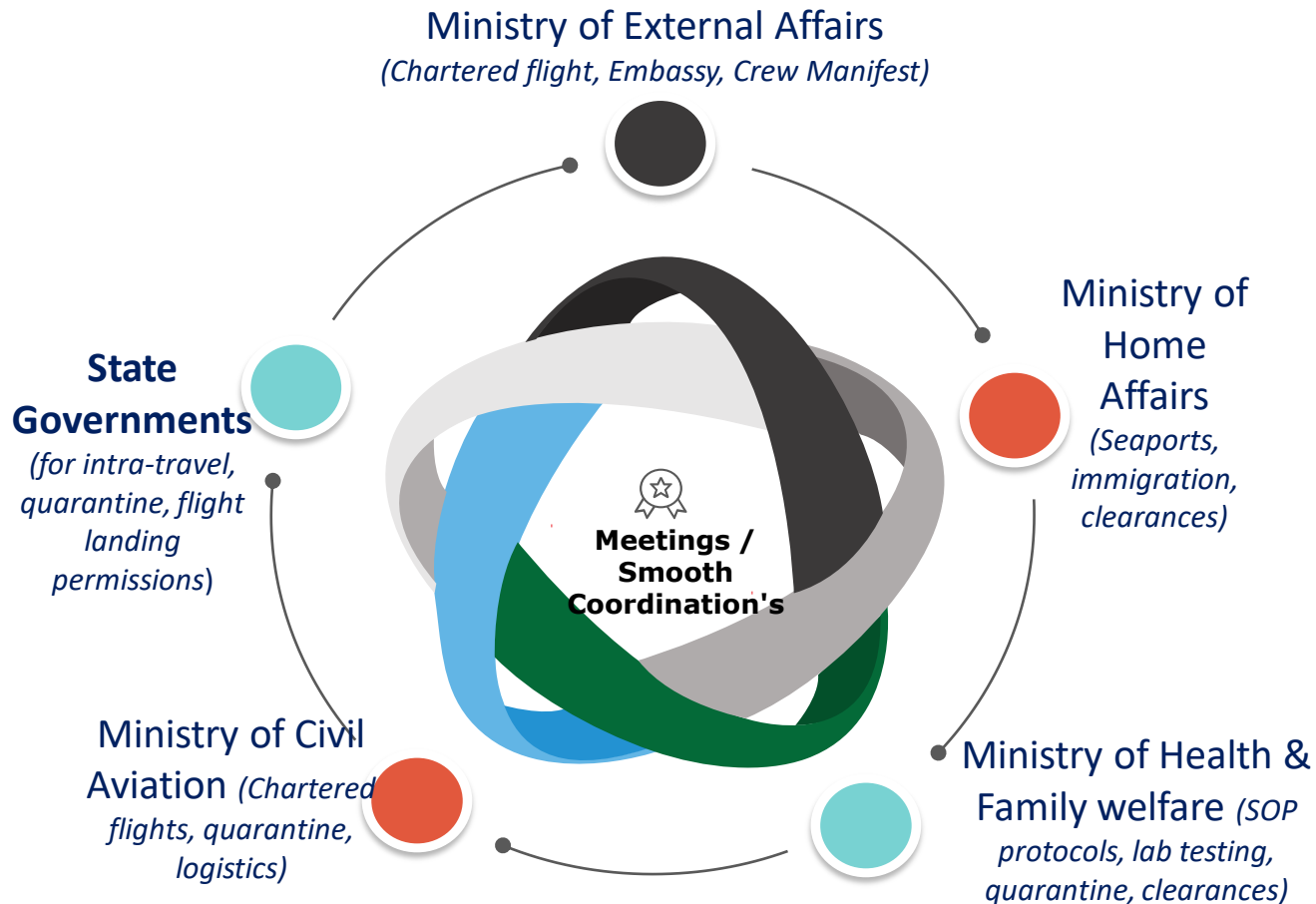
Key Challenges faced as a result of the Lockdown



DG Shipping took intensive stakeholder consultations to provide SOP's in an advent to fight against COVID-19

DG Shipping received communications via emails, tweets / letters of more than 2000 Maritime Stakeholders and took immediate responsive action to facilitate their needs

Coordination with Other Government Bodies



Involvement of Stakeholders across the Maritime Industry



SOLUTIONS / IMMEDIATE RELIEFS PROVIDED BY DG SHIPPING

1 | Maritime Training

Stopped:

Bio-metric attendance (13.03.20)
Modular & other courses (16.03.20)
Pre-sea courses (20.03.20)

Launched:

E-learning for mod. courses (16.03.20)
Online virtual courses (11.05.20)
Online Exit Exam for Modular Courses (07.08.2020)
Photo identification system
Resumption of CoC exams

Snippets

1,32,626 enrolled E-learning
More than 30,000 attending VC classes
More than 28,000 digitally signed certificates issued

2 | Seafarers

Cancelled:

Shore leave (16.03.20)
Sign-off (20.03.20)

Allowed:

Extensions of certificates: COC / COP / COE / STCW certificates (13.04.20)
Crew changes in port SOP (22.04.20)
Online E-pass facility for travel (22.04.20)
Facilitation of chartered flights (19.05.20)

Snippets

More than **1,91,000** crew change facilitated in Indian ports and outports & chartered flights

3 | Ships

SOP / Guidance:

Disease outbreak mgnt. plan (16.03.20)
SOP/ Guidance for ships (16.03.20)

Extensions:

Ship statutory certificates (13.04.20)
Ship sanitation certificates (13.04.20)
Periodical surveys & audits (13.04.20)

Snippets

Ships continued to sail and trade continued uninterrupted

SOLUTIONS / IMMEDIATE RELIEFS PROVIDED BY DG SHIPPING (Contd.)

4 | Ports

Protocols issued:

For Pilotage operations (20.03.20)
PHO clearances (20.03.20)
Ship Sanitation (20.03.20)
Port calls by ships (20.03.20)
Quarantine facilities in ports (20.03.20)
PPEs for cargo clearances (20.03.20)
Handling emergency cases (20.03.20)

Snippets

Ports continued to be operational & provided essentials

5 | Trade / Shipping lines

Advisories:

Non-charging of detention charges by shipping lines for containers (31.03.20)

Non charging of ground rent, demurrage & penal charges by shipping companies for non-containerised cargo (22.04.20)

Snippets

Relief for importers to trade

6 | Shipping industry

Permissions:

Lifted restrictions for doctors to travel to clinics & do pre-joining medicals for crew

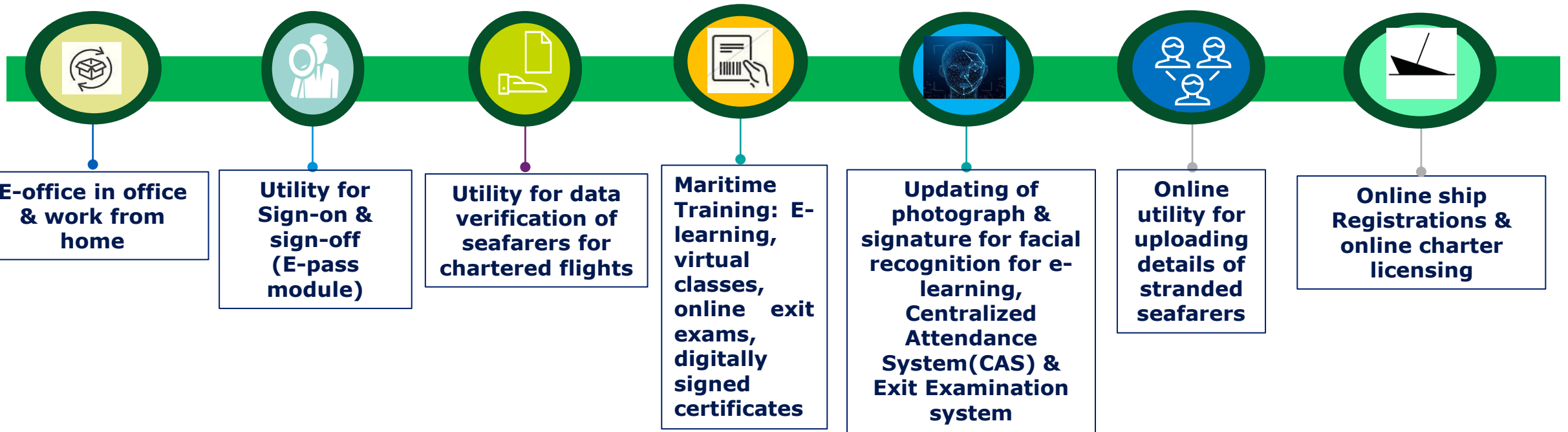
Permitted OEM, repair technicians, surveyors, vetting inspectors, technical supdt., auditors etc. to board ships

Lifted restrictions for ship owners, RPS agencies to travel & work from office

Snippets

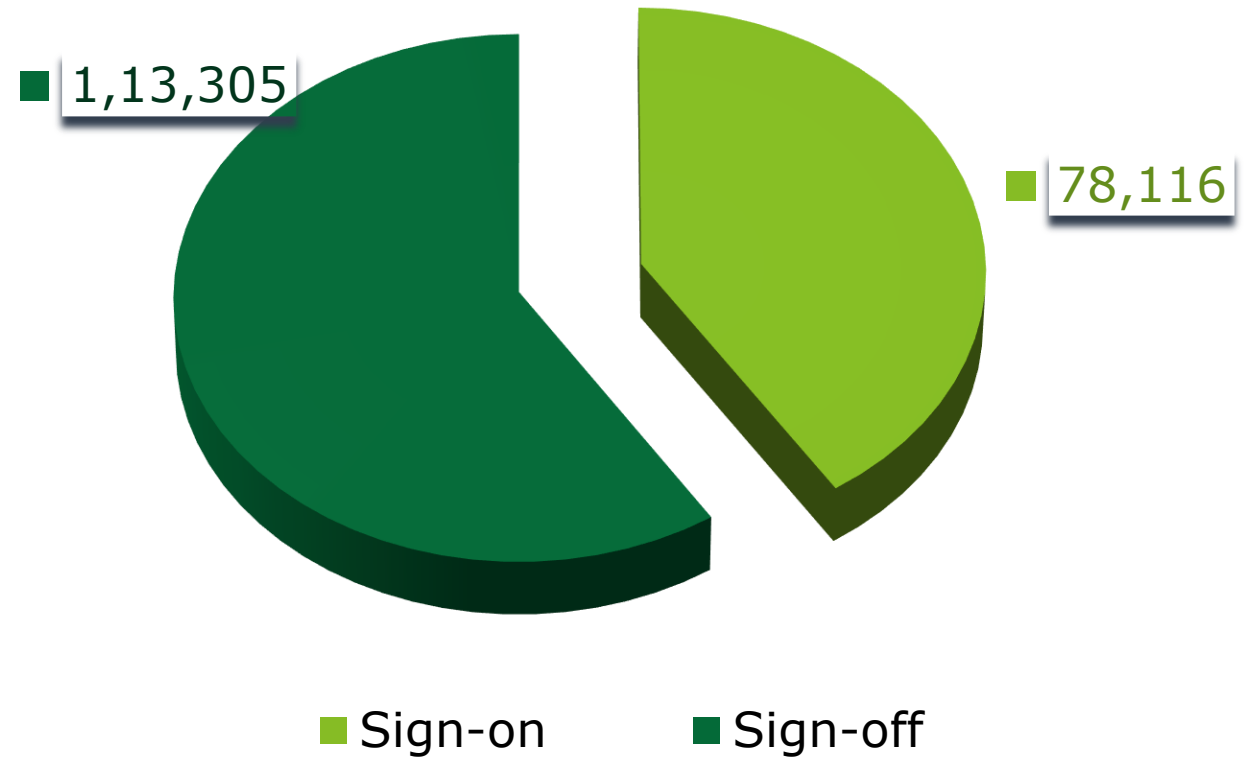
Shipping industry was facilitated to continue to work & operate ships

TECHNOLOGICAL INDUCTION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

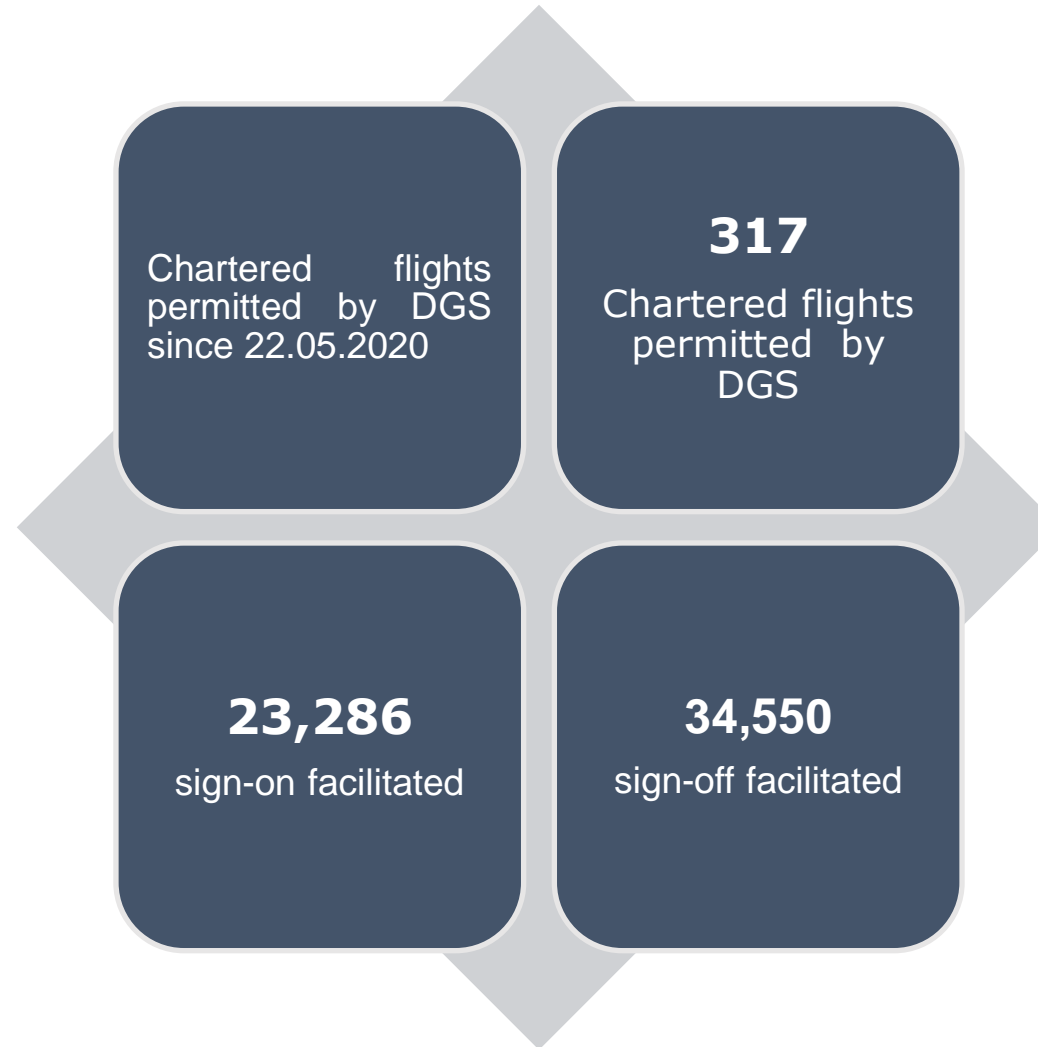


Facilitation for crew change during lockdown

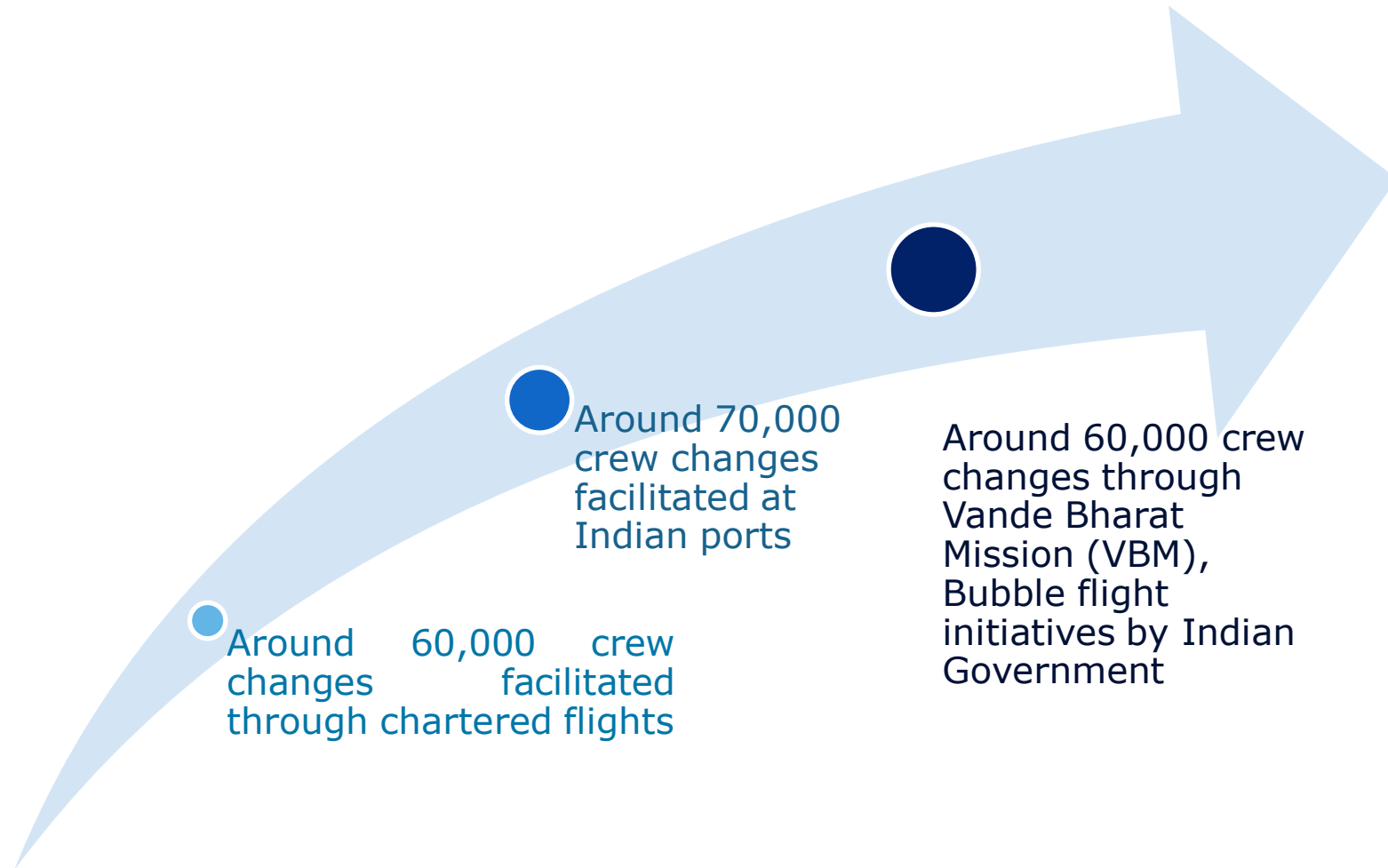
Total crew change during
COVID-19 pandemic situation
from 23.03.2020 till 30.10.2020
– **1,91,421**



Crew Changes Through Chartered Flights



Crew change during lockdown



TECHNOLOGICAL INDUCTION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

44,920

- Number of seafarers provided with BSID

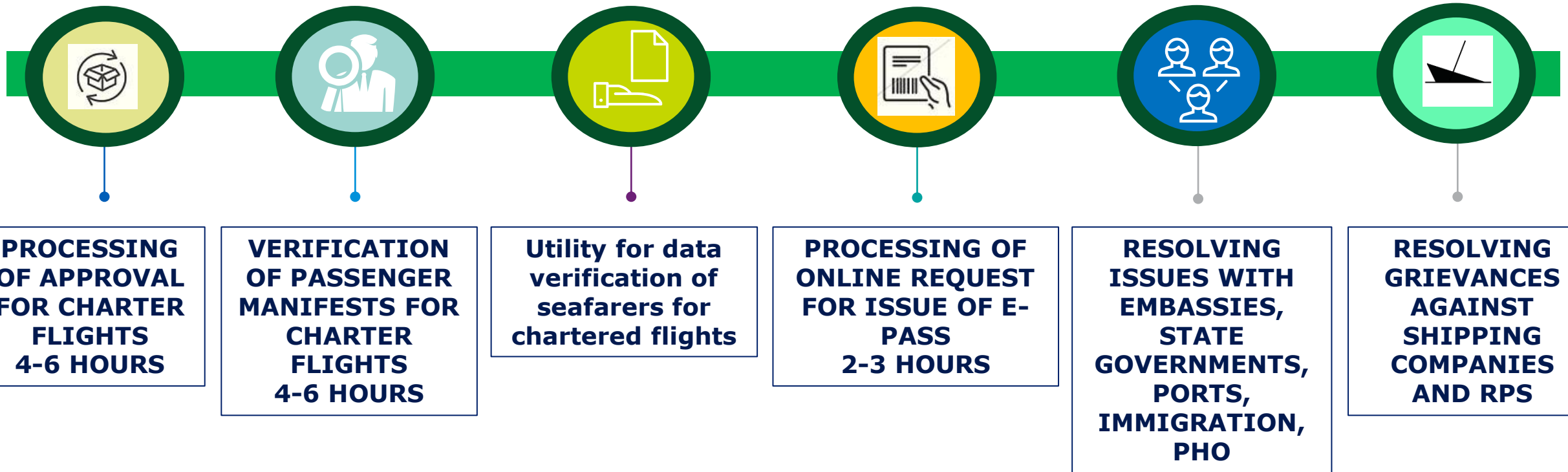
3,08,356

- Number of crew change in this year so far who sign-on and sign-off using **e-migrate system** designed to place Indian seafarers onboard ships through registered / authorised RPSL

130766-enrolled
36026-appeared
30616-passed

- Number of seafarers benefitted through online exit exam for STCW modular courses so far which was implemented to assess candidate for desired competency.

COVID CELL RESPONSE TO CREW CHANGE REQUESTS



Maritime Training recovery and way Forward

Training & Examinations

Resumption of Modular & Competency Courses:

- Three tier system (E-learning + Virtual classes + Online Exit exams) for issuance of revalidation of COC for seafarers.
- All the modular courses will be included in the exit examinations module.

Virtual Classes for Pre-sea and Competency Courses

- Theory portion of all courses identified
- Institutes allowed to conduct virtual classes

Onboard ship training

- DGS order issued to allow final year students to join ships for on board training without completing their work shop training
- New certificate designed to allow them to join ships for onboard training

Resumption of oral examination through Microsoft Teams

- Engineering Branch has resumed oral examination for COCs through video
- Nautical to start in a few days.

Virtual Online Written Examination

- Work on developing a system for conducting online written examination for COCs is undergoing.

LIST OF ORDERS / ADVISORIES ISSUED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

	Date	Specific Response action taken	List of supporting documents
Phase 1 (26.01.2020 to 29.02.200)	28.01.2020	1. Maritime advisory on COVID - 19 (Advisory to stakeholders for compliance of World Health Organisation [WHO] recommendations and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare [MoHFW], Govt. of India advisories)	1. MS Notice 02 of 2020
	04.02.2020	2. Maritime advisory on COVID - 19 (Advisory to stakeholders for compliance of MoHFW, Govt. of India advisories, WHO recommendations, International Maritime Organisation [IMO] circulars, International Maritime Health Association [IMHA] advice)	2. MS Notice 03 of 2020
Phase 2 (01.03.2020 to 22.03.2020)	03.03.2020	1. Maritime advisory on COVID - 19 (Advisory to stakeholders for compliance of MoHFW, Govt. of India advisories, WHO recommendations, IMO latest circulars, IMHA advice)	3. MS Notice 06 of 2020
	16.03.2020	2. Instructions on dealing with COVID - 19 (IMO Circulars & instructions to Shipping Companies & Ships, Recruitment & Placement Service [RPS] Providers, Maritime Training Institutes [MTI], Seafarers, Competency examinations)	4. DGS Order 02 of 2020
	20.03.2020	3. Instructions on dealing with COVID - 19 (Interim guidance for shipping & seafarers for prevention & managing outbreak of COVID - 19)	5. DGS Order 03 of 2020
	20.03.2020	4. Instructions to all major & minor ports for dealing with COVID - 19 (Instructions for ports & shipping for prevention & managing outbreak of COVID - 19)	6. DGS Order 04 of 2020
	21.03.2020	5. Updated list of countries as updated travel advisory in the website of MoHFW, Govt. of India	7. Addendum 1 to DGS Order 04 of 2020

LIST OF ORDERS / ADVISORIES ISSUED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

	Date	Specific Response action taken	List of supporting documents
Phase 3 Lockdown 1 (23.03.2020 to 14.04.2020)	23.03.2020	1. Instructions on dealing with COVID - 19 (MTI and Seafarers)	8. DGS Order 05 of 2020
	23.03.2020	2. Circular for roster of officers to be present in the office were issued as per the guidelines of MHA and Govt. of Maharashtra from time to time for providing the essential services in the DGS and kept office working all the time with senior most officers in office during all working days	9. DGS PB branch circulars
	23.03.2020	3. Extension to the validity of seafarers' CoC and Statutory Certificates, periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of COVID - 19 outbreak	10. DGS Order 06 of 2020
	25.03.2020	4. Guidelines on rational use of Personal Protective Equipment's (PPE's)	11. Addendum 2 to DGS Order 04 of 2020
	27.03.2020	5. Operation / Movement of services essential for operating ships during lock down period - reg.	12. D.O Letters to all States / U.T
	29.03.2020	6. Advisory on non-charging of container detention charges on import and export shipments	13. DGS Order 07 of 2020
	31.03.2020	7. Advisory on non-charging of any demurrage, ground rent beyond the allowed free period or any performance related penalty on non-containerized cargo during the period of effect of Covid-19 pandemic	14. DGS Order 08 of 2020
	01.04.2020	8. Maritime advisory on novel COVID - 19 (MoHFW Govt. of India advisories, IMO latest circulars, WHO recommendations, IMHA advice)	15. Addendum 3 to DGS Order 04 of 2020
	01.04.2020	9. Commencement and procedures for accessing e-learning modules for maritime STCW convention modular training courses for seafarers	16. DGS Training Circular 13 of 2020

LIST OF ORDERS / ADVISORIES ISSUED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

	Date	Specific Response action taken	List of supporting documents
Phase 4 Lockdown 2 (15.04.2020 to 03.05.2020)	17.04.2020	1. SOP for COVID-19 for DGS office, like temperature monitoring, sanitation in office, no visitors, social distancing, use of online mode for communication etc.	23. DGS PB branch circular
	22.04.2020	2. Extension of validity of DGS Order No. 07 of 2020 (On non-charging of container detention charges on import and export shipments)	24. DGS Order No. 11 of 2020
	22.04.2020	3. Standard Operation procedures / Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew changes in Indian ports	25. DGS Order No. 12 of 2020
	23.04.2020	4. Extension of due date for filing Tonnage Tax Returns for the year 2020 due to COVID - 19	26. DGS MTT Circular 01 of 2020
	24.04.2020	5. Guidelines for conducting maritime courses using virtual classes / live video sessions	27. DGS Training Circular 16 of 2020
	24.04.2020	6. Guidelines for Online Exit exam for DGS approved modular courses	28. DGS Training Circular 17 of 2020
	29.04.2020	7. A comprehensive online E-office training programme was conducted for all the staff of the Directorate and E-office module rolled out	29. DGS Training Circular 17 of 2020

LIST OF ORDERS / ADVISORIES ISSUED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

	Date	Specific Response action taken	List of supporting documents
Phase 5 Lockdown 3 (04.05.2020 to 17.05.2020)	05.05.2020	1. Contributing Rs. 5,000/- each directly into the accounts 1,210 of all ranks of unemployed seafarers.	30. NUSI Circular 11 of 2020
	06.05.2020	2. Standard Operation procedures / Protocols (SOP) for controlled crew changes at anchorages within port limits of Indian ports	31. Addendum 1 to DGS Order 12 of 2020
	08.05.2020	3. Clarification on SOP for controlled crew changes & collection of COVID - 19 samples within port premises	32. Addendum 2 to DGS Order 12 of 2020
	14.05.2020	4. Notice to marine engineering students for clearing backlog of oral examination in due course	33. DGS Engineering wing notice
	15.05.2020	5. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for controlled crew changes and e-pass	34. FAQ for crew change

LIST OF ORDERS / ADVISORIES ISSUED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

	Date	Specific Response action taken	List of supporting documents
Phase 6 Un-Lockdown	18.05.2020	6. Conduct of maritime courses using virtual classes / live video sessions	35. DGS Training Circular 19 of 2020
	21.05.2020	7. Further extension to the validity of seafarers CoC and Statutory Certificates, periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of COVID - 19 pandemic	36. DGS Order No. 13 of 2020
	22.05.2020	8. Launch of E-module for reporting of Indian seafarers awaiting their repatriation at foreign port/ship due to Covid-19 pandemic	37. MS Notice 09 of 2020
	24.05.2020	9. Welfare scheme for seafarers and their families who suffer from COVID - 19 outbreak	38. DGS SWFS Circular 01 of 2020
	07.06.2020	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)/ Protocol for repatriation of foreign seafarers from Alang port, Gujarat	39. DGS Order No. 14 of 2020
	09.06.2020	Extension of the validity of Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers License (RPSL) and Inspection of RPSL in view of Covid-19 outbreak (upto 31.07.2020)	40. DGS Order No. 15 of 2020
	22.06.2020	Re-validation of Seafarers Certificates of Competency (CoC) / Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) [CoC & CoC expiring before 31.12.2020 revalidated upto 31.12.2021 subject to conditions]	41. DGS Order No. 16 of 2020
	29.06.2020	Extension of validity of Seafarer's Certificate and Ship's Statutory Certificates, Periodical Surveys and Audits in view of COVID-19 pandemic (Till 31.08.2020)	42. DGS Order No. 17 of 2020

LIST OF ORDERS / ADVISORIES ISSUED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

	Date	Specific Response action taken	List of supporting documents
Phase 6 Un-Lockdown	01.07.2020	Standard Operating Procedures for extending validity of Certificates of those Seafarers whose Certificates are expiring after 31st December, 2020 but intending to join ships on or before 31 October, 2020.	43. SOP
	02.07.2020	FAQs for DGS Order 16 of 2020 (deemed revalidations of COC and COPs) 02.07.2020	44. FAQ for revalidations
	03.07.2020	Amendment to DGS No.01 of 2020 dated 30/01/2020 - One-time Amnesty Scheme for candidates who acquired false or forget certificates from Maritime Training Institutes without attending classes (Re do course by 31.12.2020)	45. Amendment to DGS Order No. 01. of 2020 4aled 30 / 01 / 2020
	07.07.2020	Extension to the validity of ship sanitation certificate for Indian registered vessels operating on the coast of Indian in view of COVID-19 outbreak (Till 30.09.2020)	44. DGS Order No. 18 of 2020
	07.07.2020	Extension to the validity of GMDSS-GOC licenses in view of COVID-19 outbreak (Till 30.09.2020)	45. WPC Notice
	13.07.2020	Extension of the validity of ship sanitation certificate for Indian registered vessels operating on the coast of India in view of Covid-19 outbreak (Till 30.09.2020)	45. DGS Order No. 18 of 2020
	13.07.2020	Extension of the validity of Recruitment & Placement of Seafarers License (RPSL) and audit of RPSL in view of Covid-19 outbreak (Till 30.09.2020)	46. DGS Order No. 19 of 2020
	20.07.2020	Standard Operating Procedure / Protocol (SOP) for repatriation of foreign seafarers from Indian ports - reg.	47. DGS Order No. 20 of 2020
	22.07.2020	Notice to Engineering Candidates - Conduct of Certificates of Competency Examinations of all Engineering grades	48. DGS Notice

LIST OF ORDERS / ADVISORIES ISSUED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

	Date	Specific Response action taken	List of supporting documents
Phase 6 Un-Lockdown	04.08.2020	Conduct of Training Courses for issuance of CoPs during the period of COVID-19 pandemic	DGS Order 20 of 2020
	19.08.2020	Extension to the validity of Ship's Statutory Certificates, Periodical Surveys and Audits in view of COVID-19 Pandemic	DGS Order 23 of 2020
	24.08.2020	Availability of courses for Seafarers including trainee seafarers at Maritime Training Institutes during the period of COVID-19 pandemic	DSG Order 24 of 2020
	28.08.2020	Addendum to DGS order 20 of 2020 dated 04.08.2020	Addendum to DGS order 20 of 2020 dated 04.08.2020
	30.09.2020	Extension of Certificates of Competency / Certificate of Proficiency for seafarers	DGS Order 26 of 2020
	01.10.2020	Re- Opening of Maritime Training Institutes for Practical Training under Controlled Conditions	DGS Order 28 of 2020
	13.10.2020	Extension to the validity of ship sanitation certificate for Indian registered vessels operation on the coast of India in view of COVID-19 Pandemic - reg.	DGS Order 30 of 2020
	22.10.2020	Addendum No. 01 to DGS Order 27 of 2020 dated 01.10.2020	DGS Order 31 of 2020



Crew changes at Indian ports



Crew with body suits & adequate PPE's



Crew changes at Indian ports anchorages



Crew changes with chartered flights



Resumption of Certificate of Competency (CoC) Exams



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Shipping
Government of India

THANK
YOU