



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to bring to you Issue 2 of the Second Volume of the 'LPAI Connect' Newsletter. This issue aims to disseminate the key developments and activities undertaken by the Land Ports Authority of India across all operational and upcoming Integrated Check Posts during the period of 1st April 2022 to 31st August 2022.

On the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur, inaugurated a fully air-conditioned 'Passenger Waiting Hall' at ICP Petrapole, with a capacity of over 250 people. LPAI is also facilitating trial runs towards operationalizing the Agreement to Use Chittagong and Mongla Ports (ACMP) signed between India and Bangladesh in October 2018 for the transit of goods from India via the mentioned ports in Bangladesh. I am happy to inform that w.e.f 28th June 2022, the Government of West Bengal in coordination with LPAI, Customs, and Border Security Force launched the web portal "Suvidha"-Vehicles Facilitation System for quick clearance and smooth movement of vehicles at ICP Petrapole. This has reduced the detention period of trucks to near zero days.

In recent months, LPAI has taken numerous initiatives to support and undertake research on several aspects of

land ports. We have completed studies on understanding the requirement of mechanization at ICPs, evaluation of Land Customs Stations for upgradation to ICPs, conducting social cost-benefit analysis of ICPs and Time Release Study to provide robust quantitative assessment of the EXIM cargo clearance process at Land Ports. In addition, we are supporting two research studies aligned with the objectives of India's National Trade Facilitation Action Plan.

Readers, as you are aware, India celebrated its 75th Independence Day on 15th August 2022. We celebrated the occasion with great fervour at all our Land Ports. Continuing celebrating the spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, several activities were also organized at ICPs in the period April-August 2022. This Issue also presents a visual compendium of our Independence Day and AKAM celebrations.

This newsletter highlights these updates and many more. I hope you take out some time from your busy schedule and glance through these updates.

Shri Aditya Mishra
Chairman LPAI

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II. Key Developments

Inauguration of Passenger Waiting Hall at ICP Petrapole

On the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur, inaugurated a fully air-conditioned

'Passenger Waiting Hall' at ICP Petrapole with an aim of providing comfort and convenience to passengers crossing the Land Port.

ICP Petrapole is one of the busiest land-border crossings between India and Bangladesh, facilitating movement of over 20 lakh passengers on both sides every year. The new waiting hall has a capacity of over 250 people and will be immensely beneficial to the passengers.



INAUGURATION OF PASSENGER WAITING HALL ICP PETRAPOLE



LPAI is Facilitating Trial Runs of Containerized Cargo under ACMP

In August 2022, India commenced the trial runs for the trans-shipment of goods to the north-eastern states using two key ports in Bangladesh, with a vessel arriving at Mongla port with two containers of transit cargo. The trial runs were a step towards operationalizing the Agreement to Use Chittagong and Mongla Ports (ACMP) signed between India and Bangladesh in October 2018 for the transit of goods from India via the mentioned ports in Bangladesh. The trial runs were undertaken by Maersk India Ltd and were carried out on two routes – Mongla-Tamabil-Dawki and Mongla-Bibirbazar-Srimantapur.

LPAI operates an ICP at Srimantapur and is constructing an ICP at Dawki and therefore played an important role in facilitating the smooth movement of the consignment. On 16th August 2022, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Pratima Bhowmik received the container at ICP Srimantapur. Tripura Industries and Commerce Minister Santana Chakma and Indian Assistant High Commissioner at Chittagong, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan were also present at the ICP during the arrival of the shipment. This was the first trial run under the ACMP for movement of transit cargo from Kolkata to Silchar. A consignment of 6,225 kgs pre-form plastic was brought using this route. LPAI provided all necessary facilities for the seamless interchange of the consignment and contributed to the success of the trial run.



Earlier that month, i.e. 10th August 2022, LPAI also facilitated the shipment from Bangladesh through Dawki as part of the Kolkata-Mongla-Dawki trial run (Tamabil border). Representatives from Customs, Border Guarding Force, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh, Shri Niraj Kumar Jaiswal and Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Mansur were also present during the arrival of the vessel at ICP Dawki.



Meeting to Improve Road Connectivity at ICP Sutarkandi

On 27th July 2022, the GM Projects, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Col. Porje and his manager visited ICP Sutarkandi to discuss the road connectivity to the port. ICP Sutarkandi is located along the international border between India and Bangladesh, located at a distance of about 15 kms from the district Karimganj. Two National Highways go through Sutarkandi-NH 151 (old) and NH 7 (new). In order to improve the last mile connectivity, NHIDCL is constructing a bypass road from Karimganj to Sutarkandi.

The ICP is located at a very strategic location. It has a river (Kushiara) connectivity at Lakhi Bazar (just 3 kms away from ICP) and rail connectivity about 10 kms at Mahishasan-Kalaura route which is going to be developed soon.



Railway Siding at ICP Jogbani

ICP Jogbani is located along the international border between India and Nepal, located at a distance of about 325 kms from the city of Patna. Jogbani (India) – Biratnagar (Nepal) is an important route for interchange of bilateral and third country trade between India and Nepal.

There is already an existing railway line near the ICP at the Jogbani junction. In order to facilitate multi-modal trade and connectivity via the ICP, LPAI is working towards establishing railway siding at the ICP. Railway siding is significantly cost effective and can help in reducing the transaction time of cross-border trading. On 9th June 2021, LPAI issued letter of award to Aarve Associates Architects for a period of 26 months-for preparing Feasibility Report, DPR, RFP and PMC for Railway Siding at three ICPs-Raxaul, Jogbani and Petrapole.

On 22nd July 2022, an Indian delegation led by Shri. S.K. Chowdhary, DRM Katihar visited Biratnagar to discuss the prospects of Railway Siding at Jogbani. The Manager, ICP Jogbani AC Customs Jogbani and AGM IRCON ISL also participated in the meeting.



Suvidha Pass Facilitation System for Vehicles at ICP Petrapole

On 28th June 2022, a web portal “Suvidha”-vehicles facilitation system <https://suvidha.wb.gov.in> was launched by the Government of West Bengal in coordination with Land Ports Authority of India, Indian Customs (CBIC), and Border Security Force (BSF) for quick clearance and smooth movement of vehicles at ICP Petrapole. Once registered with this portal, all sorts of facilitations for smooth movement and clearances with concerned agencies shall be ensured in a time bound manner. In case of any issue faced by the User, round-the-clock Control Room with a Dedicated Helpline has been opened to address and quick redressal of those issues. Registration fee for facilitation per Chassis vehicle has been fixed as Rs. 5000/- and other goods vehicles as Rs. 10000/- at present.¹

This service is currently open for export of all kinds of goods vehicles through ICP Petrapole and there is a plan to extend the same to other Land Ports in West Bengal such as Ghojadanga, Hili, Mahdipur and Changrabandha.

Implementation of the System has significantly reduced the detention time for vehicles at the Petrapole-Benapole land border crossing.

¹ <https://suvidha.wb.gov.in/petrapole/public/>

Development of ICP Kawrpuichhuah



ICP Kawrpuichhuah is located in the Lunglei district of the state of Mizoram. Once developed, it will be the first ICP in the state along the international border between India and Bangladesh.

On 1st June 2022, a meeting was held between Chairman LPAI Shri Aditya Mishra and Dr R Lalthangliana Minister of Family Welfare and Health Higher & Technical Education Commerce & Industry, Government of Mizoram at LPAI HQ to discuss the status of development at ICP Kawrpuichhuah. The status as of date is that EFC note has been submitted to Ministry of Home Affairs for approval.

III. Recent Activities

Fire Safety Exercises at Land Ports

On 8th August 2022, a joint fire safety exercise was conducted between LPAI'S Fire Team and State Fire Department at ICP Jogbani to reduce reaction time and have a better coordination. The sub-division fire officer was also present during the exercise. At the time of the exercise, the time taken from sub-division Forbesganj to ICP was reported to be 20 minutes and the concerned authorities are in the process of minimizing the same.

On 30th July 2022, a demonstration on 'Fire Prevention and Safety' was organized at ICP Sutarkandi in cooperation with Karimganj District Fire Department. The demonstration was attended very actively by all the LPAI staff and stakeholders.



ICP Jogbani



ICP Sutarkandi

Visit of Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees to ICPs

In the month of July 2022, officer trainees of Indian Foreign Service visited two ICPs-ICP Petrapole and ICP Raxaul.

On 21st July 2022, a delegation from the High Commission of India, Dhaka led by Shri Pratik Negi, First Secretary along with the officer trainees of Indian Foreign Service 2021 batch visited ICP Petrapole. Manager, ICP Petrapole briefed the delegation about cargo operations, passenger movement and the wide array of infrastructure facilities provided by LPAI to facilitate smooth and efficient cross-border trade and passenger movement between India and Bangladesh. DIG BSF SHQ Kolkata, Commandant BSF, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA) and other stakeholders were present during the meeting.

On 20th July 2022, a delegation comprising of Indian Foreign Service Officers Trainees along with officials of Indian Consulate General visited ICP Raxaul to understand the functioning of the land ports and its importance in facilitating cross-border trade and connectivity. Manager, ICP Raxaul briefed the delegation on the range of infrastructure facilities provided by LPAI to facilitate seamless cross-border movement of cargo and passengers between India and Nepal.

VISIT OF IFS OFFICER TRAINEES



Coordination Meeting along Petrapole-Benapole Border

On 6th July 2022, a coordination meeting was conducted between Petrapole Customs (India) and Benapole Customs (Bangladesh) at the Benapole Land Port. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Ranjan Khanna, Commissioner Customs (Preventive), Kolkata. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman, Commissioner Customs, Benapole House. LPAI also participated in the meeting along with Joint Commissioner Customs, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Land Port Authority. Other stakeholders including importers, exporters, Customs House Agents and freight forwarders also participated in the meeting.





LPAI Attends a Meeting at Benapole Land Port



On 20th August 2022, LPAI attended a meeting at Benapole Port to discuss boundary wall, drainage system along International Border between India and Bangladesh. Md. Mostafa Kamal Mazumdar-Additional Secretary and

Member (Finance and Admin), Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), Md. Hasan Ali Superintendent Engineer and Director (Projects) were also present during the meeting.

Sensitization Program on Wildlife Trafficking



On 18th August 2022, a sensitization program on Wildlife Trafficking was organized at ICP Agartala by Customs in association with LPAI and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau to apprise the port authorities and stakeholders about the growing smuggling in wild species. The program was attended by all stakeholders of the ICP such as Border Guarding Forces, Plant Quarantine department, Bureau of Immigration, Forest department amongst others.

Visit of Textiles, Commerce and Industries Minister (Government of Manipur) to Moreh



On 9th May 2022, Textiles, Commerce & Industries Minister, Smt. Nemcha Kipgen visited ICP Moreh. She was given an overview of the range of infrastructure facilities provided by LPAI to facilitate cross-border trade and passenger movement. In the capacity of Commerce Ministry, Government of Manipur Smt. Kipgen assured full cooperation for enhancement of trade through the ICP. During the visit, Smt. Kingpen also emphasized the importance of ICP Moreh in the fulfilment of the vision of India's Act East policy.

Minister also sought cooperation from the local CSOs and the villagers for proper maintenance of the ICP and other developmental activities/projects of the Central and State Government.²

Director, IWAI visits ICP Sutarkandi



On 26th April 2022, Director, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Sh. A. Selvakumar visited ICP Sutarkandi. Discussions were held on the development of waterfront in Badarpur in Karimganj town and at Lakshmi Bazaar which lies in close proximity to the BTC-II premises of the land port. Mr. Selvakumar appreciated the efforts being undertaken by LPAI to promote trade from the land port which in turn has contributed to the overall development of the area around Sutarkandi.

² <https://thenortheastaffairs.com/minister-nemcha-kipgen-inspects-icp-moreh/>

Consul General of USA, Kolkata visits ICP Agartala

U.S Consulate General, Kolkata (India), Ms. Melinda Pavek visited ICP Agartala on 30th August 2022. She was provided an overview of the functioning and role of LPAI by the Manager, ICP Agartala. She also toured the port premises and was briefed about the gamut of infrastructure facilities for facilitating smooth and seamless cross-border trade and passenger movement between India and Bangladesh via the port.



III. Research Initiatives

LPAI's Annual Summer Internship Programme

In June 2022, LPAI commenced its second round of Annual Summer Internship Programme for students and research scholars to familiarize them with the process of land port development, cross-border trade and passenger movement and nuances of border issues and bordering dynamics and borderlands. The programme is aimed at providing educational and career-development

opportunities through practical ground research experience at ICPs. Through this initiative, LPAI envisions to tap into young and talented students and research scholars with fresh perspectives and yearning for knowledge and seek their inputs into the policy making process at land borders.

This year LPAI onboarded seven summer interns from diverse field and premier educational institutions across the country. Each intern is assigned to a mentor who is an expert on the subject matter of interest of the intern. The programme is spread over two months and involves both desk research and field experience.

S. No.	Name of Intern	Mentor	Topic of Internship
1	Hritik Vineet Bhasin, Master of Arts in Diplomacy, Law and Business (M.A. DLB), O.P Jindal Global University	Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)	Understanding Interagency Cooperation at Land Ports of India
2	Mahek Marwaha, Master of Arts in Diplomacy, Law and Business (M.A. DLB), O.P Jindal Global University	Afaq Hussain, Director, Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF)	Balancing Security and Trade- ICP Attari
3	Pranav Bhardwaj, BSc (Economics), Sarla Anil Modi School of Economics, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS)	Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Associate Professor and Head, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies	Socio-Economic Assessment of ICP Petrapole
4	Srinwanti Chowdhury, B.A. (Hons.) Economics, Jadavpur University	Dr. Samridhi Bimal, Senior Consultant, EY	Studying Implications for Ratification of BBIN MVA for Land Ports in India
5	Devashree Kapse, MBA-Transportation & Economics Management National Rail & Transportation Institute (NRTI)	Mr. Amit Dogra, Consultant, EY	Design of Traffic Flow at ICP Rupaidiha
6	Divansh Bhambray, Post Graduate Diploma in Management, Jagan Institute of Management Studies (JIMS)	Dr. Dipankar Dey, Associate Professor, Techno India School of Management Studies	Making Land Ports Sustainable and Green
7	Paulami Chatterjee, Master of Arts in Economics, Jadavpur University	Mr. Sudip Kumar Paul, Assistant Policy, CUTS Analyst and Dr. Veena Vidyadharan, Fellow, CUTS	Examining Sustainable Fish Trade with Bangladesh The Case of ICP Agartala and ICP Srimantapur



SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2022-23



LPAI is Supporting Two Research Studies

LPAI is supporting two research studies titled “Improving India’s Ease of Trading Across Borders: Opportunities and Challenges in Integrated Check Posts” and “Coordinated Border Management at Land Ports in BBIN Countries”. These are being undertaken by CUTS International (Consumer Unity and Trust Society) and BRIEF India respectively.

The objective of the first study on “Improving India’s Ease of Trading Across Borders: Opportunities and Challenges in Integrated Check Posts” is to understand how infrastructure and services offered at select ICPs could be improved further to reduce the time and cost involved in doing cross-

border trade between India and her neighbours. This is also mandated upon LPAI by India’s National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) 2020-23, Action Point #53.

The objective of the second study on “Coordinated Border Management at Land Ports in BBIN Countries” is to explore the scope for Coordinated Border Management in BIN countries and assess the feasibility for the development of common facilitation centres – both infrastructural and digital. India’s NTFAP 2020-23 also encourages authorities to explore feasibility to establish mechanism to enhance cooperation for cross border trade at land ports (Action Point #10).



FIELD VISIT TO LAND PORTS

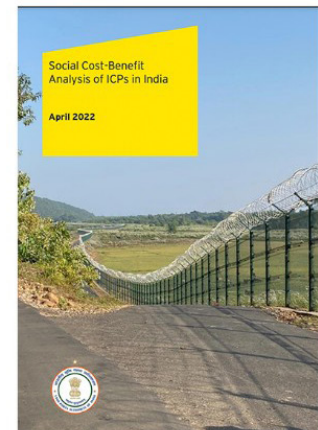
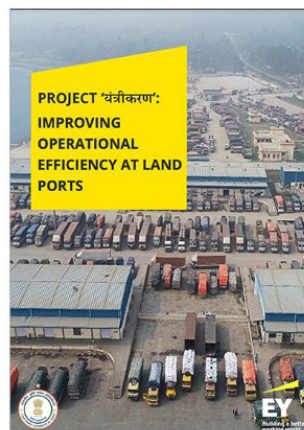
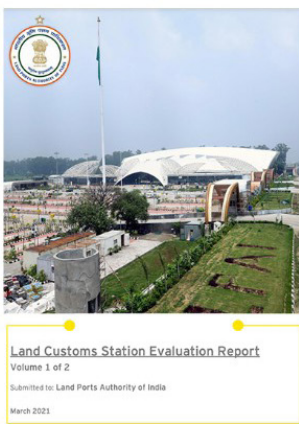




FIELD VISIT TO LAND PORTS



IN-HOUSE RESEARCH



VISIT THE LPAI WEBSITE TO READ DETAILED
REPORTS - LPAI.GOV.IN/RESEARCH

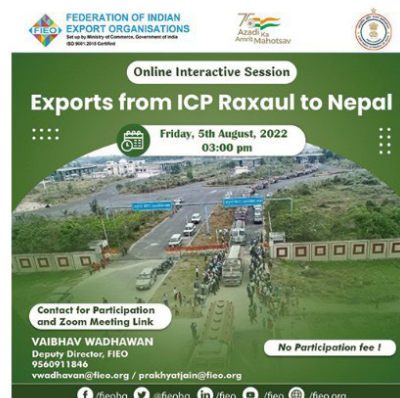
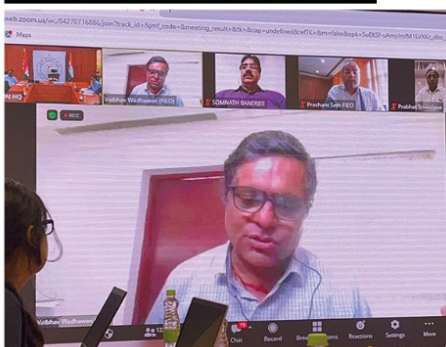
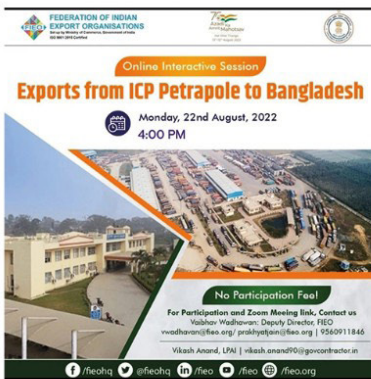
Online Interactive Stakeholder Sessions

LPAI in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) organized two online stakeholder interactive sessions. The first one was held on 'Exports from ICP Raxaul to Nepal' on 5th August 2022 at 3 PM and 'Exports from ICP Petrapole to Bangladesh' on 22nd August

2022 at 4 PM. These sessions were organized to have a consultative discussion on the facilities and challenges faced at these land ports so that corrective policy action can be undertaken to facilitate smooth and seamless flow of cross-border trade.



ONLINE INTERACTIVE SESSIONS



LP AI Organized a Session on 'Strengthening India-Myanmar Trade and Connectivity Via Land Ports'

In its endeavour to promote cross-border trade and connectivity via the Moreh Land Port, LPAI organized a brainstorming session on 4th August 2022 on strengthening India-Myanmar trade and connectivity via land ports at LPAI HQ Conference Room.

The discussion points included an assessment of trade profile and logistics infrastructure at ICP Moreh; identification of constraints, challenges, and bottlenecks at the India-Myanmar border; potential of ICP Moreh as India's Gateway

to South-East Asia and channelizing sea-based trade between India and Myanmar to land-based trade.

Invited participants included Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS); Dr. Subrata Behera, Ports and Containers Research, Drewry; Dr. Ch Priyaranjan Singh, Professor, Manipur University; Mr. Nabachandra Singh, Representative from Logistics Industry; Mr. Mohan, Representative from Importer-Exporter Association, Moreh; Mr. Seiboi Haokip, Indo-Myanmar Friendship Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy, Associate Professor and Head, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies and Ms. Komal Biswal, Researcher.



Workshop on International Trade at ICP Moreh

A one-day workshop on international trade organised by Land Custom Station (LCS) Moreh and Imphal Custom (Preventive) Division at the Conference Hall of ICP, Moreh was held at Integrated Check Post (ICP) Moreh on 28th May 2022. Attended by over 70 participants from different departments, the workshop began with SP LCS Moreh SK Gangte, highlighting the objective of the programme and ICP Manager T. Baite giving a welcome address to all the participants. Commissioner of Customs (Prev), NER, Shillong, GM Kamei, IRS gave a speech on international trade and explained how traders could engage in international trade

through proper channels by applying Import Export Code (IEC).

Superintendent (Tech), customs (Prev.), NER, Shillong Hauzel Daniel gave a presentation on customs trade procedures, superintendent, ICD Amingaon, Guwahati Customs Division on ICES/EDI System Nobin Chandra Singh and Deputy Manager (FOREX) SBI, Main Branch, Imphal Oinam Sarita gave a speech on Role of Banks - FOREX/Financial systems in Import -Export.

Following the presentation, an interactive session was organized to clear the doubts and queries of participants.

Source: <https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/workshop-on-international-trade-held-in-moreh>



IV. 75th Independence Day Celebrations and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

The 75th Independence Day of India was celebrated religiously and fervently across all ICPs. LPAI observed the '*Har Ghar Tiranga*' initiative, under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM), by encouraging its employees, staff, stakeholders and general public to bring the tricolour home and hoist it during the dedicated week. The port premises were adorned with tricolours of the National Flag celebrating India's tryst with destiny and as a mark of respect for its freedom fighters.

As part of AKAM, all the ICPs organised a plethora of activities that were diverse in nature and covered cultural, social, welfare, social and beatification activities. These activities allowed participants to express their patriotic ideals and showcase their talent. All stakeholders participated in these events with great zeal and enthusiasm.

A snapshot of the Independence Day and AKAM celebration activities organized at the operational Land Ports is presented in the next few pages.



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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव
हर घर तिरंगा
13-15 अगस्त 2022

INDEPENDENCE DAY

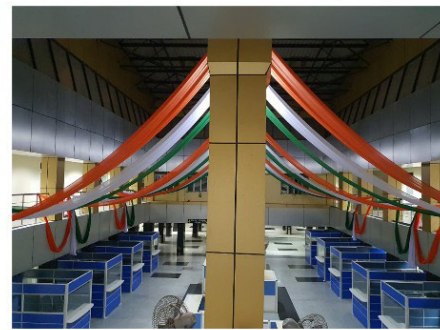
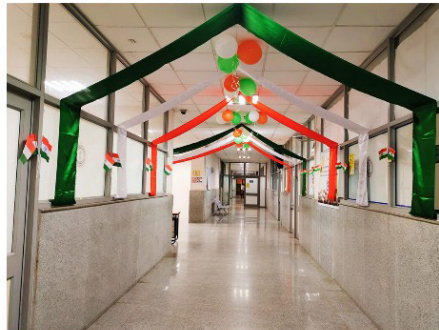
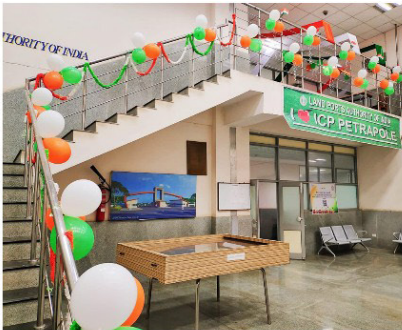


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INDEPENDENCE DAY



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INDEPENDENCE DAY



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AKAM CELEBRATIONS



75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

PLANTATION DRIVE



75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY



75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

SPORTS ACTIVITIES



75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



LPAI Welcomes Member (Planning & Development)

LPAI extends a warm welcome to Shri Sanjeev Gupta for assuming charge as Member (Planning & development), LPAI w.e.f 1st April 2022. Shri Gupta is an ITS Officer of 1988 batch. Prior to joining LPAI, he was serving as Deputy Director General in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications. He joined the DoT in 1990. Since then he has worked in various capacities in various States. He has worked for an international assignment for three years in Kuwait. Shri Gupta also has four years' experience of working with the TRAI from 2007 to 2010. Before joining LPAI, he was also Government Nominee Director in TCIL & BSNL. The LPAI team is delighted to welcome you on board!



EDITORIAL TEAM



Shri Aditya Mishra
Chairman LPAI



Smt. Rekha Raikar Kumar
Member (Finance), LPAI



Dr. Samridhi Bimal
Senior Consultant, EY

LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Ministry of Home Affairs
Department of Border Management

📍 1st Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market, New Delhi-110511

📞 Office No: 011-24340712, Fax No: 011-24340754