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Shipbuilding scheme guidelines notified

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SARBANANDA SONOWAL, MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS

These guidelines create a stable and transparent framework that will revive domestic shipbuilding... enable large-scale investment and build world-class capacity

THE MINISTRY OF ports, shipping and waterways has notified guidelines for two major shipbuilding initiatives with a total outlay of over ₹44,700 crore.

The two initiatives — the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SBDS) — are aimed at strengthening the country's domestic shipbuilding capacity and improving global competitiveness, according to an official statement. Under SBFAS, which has a corpus of ₹24,736 crore, the government will provide financial assistance of 15-25% per vessel, depending on the vessel category. The SBDS, with a budgetary outlay of ₹19,989 crore, focuses on long-term capacity and capability creation.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said that these guidelines create a stable and transparent framework that will revive domestic shipbuilding, boosting forward and backward linkages, the official statement said.

It said the scheme introduces graded support for small normal, large normal, and specialised vessels, with stage-wise disbursement linked to defined milestones and backed by security instruments.

Incentives for series orders are also included, the statement added. The scheme also provides for the establishment of a National Shipbuilding Mission to ensure coordinated planning and execution of shipbuilding initiatives.

It also introduces a shipbreaking credit note, under which ship owners scrapping vessels at Indian yards will receive a credit equivalent to 40% of the scrap value, linking ship recycling with new ship construction and supporting a circular economy approach.

According to the statement, independent valuation and milestone-based assessments have been made mandatory to strengthen governance and ensure efficient use of public funds.

Over the next decade, the statement said, SBFAS is expected to support shipbuilding projects worth about ₹96,000 crore, stimulate domestic manufacturing, and generate employment across the maritime value chain.

According to the statement, the scheme provides for the development of greenfield shipbuilding clusters, expansion and modernisation of existing brownfield shipyards, and the establishment of an India Ship Technology Centre under the Indian Maritime University to support research, design, innovation and skills development.

Under SBDS, the statement said, greenfield shipbuilding clusters will receive 100% capital support for common maritime and internal infrastructure through a 50:50 Centre-state special purpose vehicle, while existing shipyards will be eligible for 25% capital assistance for brownfield expansion of critical infrastructure such as dry docks, shiplifts, fabrication facilities, and automation systems.

Rolls-Royce plans 'significant investment' for India growth

BRITISH AERO-ENGINE MAKER Rolls-Royce on Sunday said it is looking at making India its third "home market" outside of the UK in line with a plan to unlock the full potential of opportunities across an array of domains including jet engine, naval propulsion, land systems and advanced engineering.

Sashi Mukundan, executive VP, Rolls-Royce India

In an interview to PTI, Sashi Mukundan, executive vice president of Rolls-Royce India, said the company is planning for a "big investment" in the country and listed developing a next-generation aero engine in India as a priority to power the combat jets that New Delhi will produce under the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

Besides the UK, Rolls-Royce considers the US and Germany as its "home markets" as the company has considerable presence including manufacturing facilities in these two countries.

Mukundan also highlighted how Rolls-Royce can contribute significantly to address India's requirement for electric propulsion capability for boosting the Indian Navy's combat prowess. He suggested that the development of the jet engine for the AMCA involving Rolls-Royce could also help India manufacture engines for naval propulsion as the company is among very few engine makers globally to have the capability to "marinize the aero engine". Mukundan said Rolls-Royce was eyeing to make significant investment to expand its footprint in India.

"If everything goes well, it would be a significant investment. It'll be big enough that people will notice it, but I don't want to put a number to it. What matters is the impact of this investment, which would be the development of the entire value chain and ecosystem here across sectors that we operate in," he said. —PTI

First Indian standard for electric tractors released

THE BUREAU OF Indian Standards (BIS) has come out with the country's first testing standard for electric agricultural tractors, marking a push towards cleaner farm mechanisation.

The standard — IS 19262:2025 Electric Agricultural Tractors-Test Code — was released by Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on the occasion of National Consumer Day, according to an official statement on Sunday.

Developed by BIS, it establishes uniform testing protocols to assess the safety, reliability and performance of electric tractors. The standard covers testing of power take-off (PTO), drawbar power, belt and pulley performance, vibration measurement, and inspection of components and assemblies. It draws on existing standards for conventional diesel tractors and electric vehicles, adapted for agricultural use. —PTI