

Adani Ports berths India's 1st-ever fully laden Very Large Crude Carrier at Mundra Port

AHMEDABAD, Jan 8 (IANS)

INA defining moment for India's maritime and energy infrastructure, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Thursday announced the berthing of India's first-ever fully laden Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) at its Mundra Port.

With the docking of Mt New Renown, which has a total cargo capacity of 3.3 lakh m³ (meter cube), Mundra became the first port in India to handle Fully Laden VLCC at Berth, the Adani Group company said in a statement. The handling of Mt New Renown was executed under challenging conditions with



strong currents, winds and sea states, showcasing expertise, coordination and operational excellence of the APSEZ marine team and port management.

Mundra's VLCC jetty is seamlessly connected via a 489 km crude oil pipeline to the HPCL

Rajasthan Refinery at Barmer one of India's most strategic refining assets. This direct connectivity significantly enhances India's energy security; efficiency of large-scale crude imports; supply chain resilience; and regional economic growth across

Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The port facility allows berthing of a fully laden VLCC at maximum displacement, represents a transformational shift in India's crude oil logistics, enabling safer, faster and more cost-efficient crude handling through direct jetty operations.

Direct jetty berthing of fully laden VLCCs is available at only a limited number of ports across the world due to extreme draft, displacement and infrastructure requirements of these vessels.

With this achievement, Mundra Port is now among select global crude handling hubs, strengthening India's position in the global maritime and energy map.

3 Indians among crew on board Russian tanker seized by US

MOSCOW, Jan 8 (PTI)

THREE Indians are among the crew on board the Russian oil tanker seized by the US, local media reported even as Moscow on Thursday asked Washington to comply with international laws on freedom of maritime navigation while strongly rejecting its 'neo-colonialist' tendencies.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also said information about the *Marinera* tanker, previously known as *Bella 1*, that was seized on Wednesday by the US coast-guard in the North Atlantic, was conveyed to America repeatedly.

"The *Marinera* crew consists of 17 Ukrainian citizens, six Georgian citizens, three Indian

citizens and two Russian citizens," Russia Today said, quoting sources.

"We call on Washington to resume compliance with the fundamental norms and principles of international maritime navigation and immediately cease its illegal actions against the *Marinera* tanker and other vessels engaged in law-abiding activities on the high seas," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Moscow said it considers the US references to its national "sanctions legislation" to be unfounded.

"The statements by some US officials that the seizure of the *Marinera* is part of a broader strategy to establish Washington's unlimited control over

Venezuela's natural resources are extremely cynical. We strongly reject such neo-colonialist tendencies," the Foreign Ministry underscored.

"Unilateral restrictive measures by the US, as well as other Western countries, are illegitimate and cannot justify attempts to establish jurisdiction and, even more so, to seize ships on the high seas," it said.

Demanding humane and dignified treatment of its crew, the statement said: "We reiterate our demand that the US ensure humane and dignified treatment of the Russian citizens comprising the tanker's crew, strictly observe their rights and interests, and make no obstacles to their prompt return to their home-

land." It also expressed serious concerns of the use of military force by the US against the oil tanker, full information about which was conveyed to it.

"The *Marinera*, which on December 24 received temporary permission to sail under the Russian flag in accordance with the international law and Russian legislation, was peacefully transiting international waters in the North Atlantic, heading for one of Russia's ports," the foreign ministry said.

The US Government had been repeatedly provided with reliable information, including from the Russian Foreign Ministry, about the ship's Russian origin and its civilian status, it asserted.

Trump withdraws US from over 60 global institutions, including UN bodies and ISA

UNITED NATIONS/WASHINGTON,
Jan 8 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from over 60 international organisations, including UN bodies and the India-France-led International Solar Alliance, calling the institutions “redundant” and “contrary” to America’s interests.

Trump signed a memorandum titled ‘Withdrawing the United States from International Organisations, Conventions, and

Treaties that Are Contrary to the Interests of the United States’.

After signing, Trump said he has determined that it is “contrary” to the interests of the US to remain a member of, participate in, or otherwise provide support to the 66 UN and Non-United Nations organisations. This includes 31 UN entities, as well as 35 non-UN organisations “that operate contrary to US national interests, security, economic prosperity, or sovereignty,” according to a White House

fact sheet. Trump directed all executive departments and agencies to take immediate steps to put into effect the withdrawal of the US from the organisations “as soon as possible”. He added that for UN entities, withdrawal means ceasing participation in or funding to those entities to the extent permitted by law.

The list of organisations includes the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a collaborative initiative between India and France aimed at uniting efforts to com-

bat climate change by implementing solar energy solutions.

Headquartered in India, the ISA was launched at COP21 in Paris in 2015 and has expanded its membership scope to include all UN member States.

Currently, over 100 countries are signatories to the ISA, with more than 90 countries having ratified to become full members. Its mission is to unlock USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030 while reducing technology and financing costs.

Trump for 500 pc TARIFFS on India, China for buying Russian oil

The legislation would give the White House "tremendous leverage" against countries like China, India and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying cheap oil from Russia, said US Senator Lindsey Graham

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Jan 8 (PTI)

UNITED States (US) President Donald Trump has backed a sanctions bill that could impose 500 per cent tariffs on countries buying Russian oil, giving the White House leverage against countries like China and India to stop them from purchasing cheap oil from Moscow. US Senator Lindsey Graham

on Wednesday said that the legislation would give the White House "tremendous leverage" against countries like China, India and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying cheap oil from Russia.

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"After a very productive meeting today with President Trump on a variety of issues, he greenlit the bipartisan Russia sanctions bill that I have been working on for



months with Senator Blumenthal and many others," Graham said in a post on X Wednesday.

"This will be well-timed, as Ukraine is making concessions for peace, and Putin is all talk, continuing to kill the innocent. This bill will allow President Trump to punish those countries who buy cheap Russian oil, fuelling Putin's war machine," he said.

"This bill would give President Trump tremendous leverage against countries like China, India and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying the cheap Russian oil that provides the financing for Putin's bloodbath against Ukraine," he added.

Graham said he looks forward to a "strong" bipartisan vote on

the bill, "hopefully as early as next week."

Trump has imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, among the highest in the world, including 25 per cent levies for its purchases of Russian energy.

Graham and Blumenthal have introduced the Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025, which would impose secondary tariffs and sanctions on "countries that continue to fund Putin's barbaric war in Ukraine."

The legislation has proposed a 500 per cent tariff on secondary purchase and reselling of Russian oil and one that almost every single member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has co-sponsored.

"President Trump and his

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