



**Indian Ports Association becomes the latest member of IPCSA – bringing into the IPCSA family the major ports of India.**

The Indian Ports Association (IPA), an apex body of Major Ports under Administrative Control of Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India, has become the latest member of the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA).

*Dr Abhijit Singh, Executive Director of the IPA* stated that “Honourable Minister of Shipping, Government of India desires Indian Port Community System (PCS1x) should constantly evolve to be the best in class PCS globally. Hence, in order to keep abreast of the technological developments happening globally it is important that IPA should become part of the international port community network by developing noble association with prestigious body like IPCSA. We endeavour to integrate with other international PCS to ease trading across borders. In fact, we wish to aligning PCS 1x to the 2030 vision of IPCSA.”



“IPCSA is delighted to welcome the Indian Ports Association” said Hans Rook, Chairman of IPCSA. “The IPA brings with it their experience and knowledge on how to develop a National Port Community System. The inclusion of the Indian Ports through PCS1x platform into IPCSA is a new milestone in IPCSAs development and will support in the implementation of new global initiatives.”



India is a nation that has been working for many years now on its digital infrastructure and enabling of e-governance. PCS 1x has been rolled out by IPA to offer a true single window for the port and maritime community for sharing data and information. PCS1x has grown in scope and penetration over the last year and a half with significantly better utilisation than its predecessor, which was deployed on premise at major ports in 2006. Since going live in December 2018, the new PCS1x has tripled the user base and reduced the turnaround time of (Customs) batch mode of EDI exchange from 30 minutes to under 4 minutes.

Over 27 identified stakeholders have role-based access to the new PCS1x hosted on Cloud, giving them a better user experience as they interact with the ports, terminals, each other and the end user. It has provisions for translating messages of different standards to facilitate meaningful exchange of data with multiple external systems in required formats

The Indian PCS is robust, highly scalable and flexible which is one of its key USPs. Generally other countries PCS caters EXIM trade of single port/terminal, while Indian PCS1x architecture is designed in such a way that it not only caters 12 Major Ports but other 200 Non-Major Ports of India as well, of which 8 are currently on-boarded. PCS1x is addressing the way in which information is passed on a real-time basis by integrating with various stakeholder systems bringing speed, transparency and efficiency leading to reduction in errors, faster processing times.

Currently 12 major ports have fully implemented PCS1x with over 16000+ users transacting. Moreover, private ports including Mundra, Pipavav, Hazira, Kattupalli and Dahej have commenced adoption.

With the success of PCS1x over the past year and with the constant support of various organisations, the Government of India is now working towards developing a revolutionary national maritime single window known as 'National Logistics Portal (NLP-Marine)' encompassing complete end-to-end logistic solution.

The Indian Government is constantly upgrading PCS1x to make it the best in class globally. Change is the only constant, but it takes time to implement change across a nation as large and complex as

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ours. However, we are witnessing growing support and a willingness to adapt to the changes powered by PCS1x. With the active support and participation from various trade bodies and their various members, PCS1x is leading the way in the maritime space to the digital era.

Richard Morton, Secretary General of IPCSA concluded that “The Indian Governments vision to create a national PCS (NLP- Marine), has during this time of crisis enabled greater digitalisation in its ports which helps to ensure continuing operations. Their future ambitions of connecting Ports around the world fits well with IPCSA’s own neutral enabling platform initiative, the Network of Trusted Networks, enabling simple, secure and easy Port to Port and Cross Border Exchange of Information. It is a great pleasure to welcome IPA into IPCSA.”





**Notes to editors:**

**About the Indian Ports Association**

The IPA was constituted in 1966 under Societies Registration Act, primarily with the idea of fostering growth and development of all Major Ports which are under the supervisory control of Ministry of Shipping. Over the years, IPA has consolidated its activities and grown strength by strength and considered to be a think tank for the Major Ports with the ultimate goal of integrating the maritime sector. <http://www.ipa.nic.in/>

**About IPCSA**

IPCSA is an international association of sea and air port community operators, sea and air port authorities and single window operators that is recognised across the globe for providing advice and guidance on the electronic exchange of information across borders and throughout the whole supply chain.

IPCSA focuses on supporting and facilitating systems and innovations for Port Community System members and users, and promoting the use of international data standards in sea and air ports, at border crossings and via Single Window systems around the world. IPCSA is a recognised NGO with consultative status at UNECOSOC and IMO.

The PROTECT Group, develops and supports the electronic reporting required by authorities for vessels entering or leaving a port or port area. It maintains and develops EDI through the PROTECT Guide. In January 2020 PROTECT integrated into IPCSA [www.protect-group.org](http://www.protect-group.org)

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