

# LPAI CONNECT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA



September 2023 • VOL - 3 • ISSUE - 3

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

It is with immense pleasure that I introduce the third issue of the third volume of our "LPAI Connect" newsletter. This issue chronicles the noteworthy developments and activities carried out by the Land Ports Authority of India between 1st May 2023 and 31st August 2023.

Throughout this quarter, we have achieved several extraordinary milestones. We were able to inaugurate two new Land Ports at Dawki and Rupaidiha. The Dawki Land Port, situated along the India-Bangladesh border, was inaugurated on 4th May 2023, by our esteemed Shri Nityanand Rai, the Minister of State for Home Affairs in the Government of India. On 1st June 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, jointly inaugurated the Land Ports at Rupaidiha (India) and Nepalgunj (Nepal) in a virtual ceremony. Furthermore, they virtually laid the foundation for Land Ports at Sonauli (India) and Bhairahawa (Nepal).

We were privileged to host high-profile visits, with the Honorable Union Home and Cooperation Minister gracing Petrapole on 9th May and laying the foundation stone of 'Maitri Dwaar' and inaugurating police station

and hostel building; and the Honorable Finance Minister Srimantapur on 22nd July. These visits underscore the pivotal role our land ports play in shaping economic and trade dynamics. In the realm of capacity building, LPAI has taken significant strides. The signing of MoUs with IIM Ahmedabad and the National Fire Service College, Nagpur, marks a significant leap towards fostering excellence and safety in port management.

Furthermore, we are proud to announce the release of our research report on Moreh. This report encapsulates our dedication to strengthening border connectivity, and I believe it will serve as a guiding light for future endeavors.

I extend my gratitude to each member of the LPAI family for their unyielding commitment and relentless pursuit of excellence. Together, we continue to forge a path towards seamless, efficient, and secure land port operations, fostering economic growth and regional integration.

**Shri Aditya Mishra**  
**Chairman LPAI**

## CONTENTS

**Chairman's Message**

**01**

**I. Key Developments**

**02**

**II. Recent Activities**

**10**

**III. Training Initiatives**

**17**

**IV. Yoga Day Celebrations**

**23**

**V. Independence Day Celebrations**

**24**

## I. Key Developments

### Inauguration of Land Port Dawki

On 4th May 2023, Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs in the Government of India, inaugurated Land Port Dawki in the presence of Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar marking a significant milestone in the cross-border trade landscape.

The Dawki Land Port is located in West Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, 55 kms from the district headquarters, Jowai, and about 84 kms from Meghalaya's capital Shillong. The corresponding Land Port in Bangladesh is Tamabil, located in the Sylhet district. This strategic port serves as a vital hub for the movement of goods, passengers and vehicles between India and Bangladesh, fostering economic growth and cultural exchange.

During the inauguration MoS emphasized that the land port is expected to boost the tourism and business sectors. He

said *"This (port) has been made keeping in mind the two countries' requirements. It has good infrastructure, a slew of facilities such as go-down for cargo, canteen for tourists and electric substation. The aim is to bring together all the agencies and stakeholders under a single roof".*

The development of Land Port Dawki was approved by High Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) of MHA on 4th February 2016. The Land Port is spread over a total area of 23.0 acres and has been built at an approximate cost of Rs 83.38 crores. The Port has an array of modern and state-of-art infrastructure facilities such as Passenger Terminal Building, Cargo Terminal Building, Warehouse, Entrance/Exit Gate for Passenger and Cargo Vehicles, etc..



## Inauguration of Land Port Dawki





## Inauguration of Land Port Rupaidiha and Ground Breaking Ceremony of Land Port Sonauli

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Pushpa Kamal Dahal jointly inaugurated the Land Ports at Rupaidiha (India) and Nepalgunj (Nepal) in a virtual ceremony on 1st June 2023. This significant event marked a milestone in the bilateral relations between India and Nepal, reaffirming the commitment of both sides to strengthen connectivity, facilitate trade, and enhance people-to-people interactions.

The first Land Port in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Land Port Rupaidiha is located in the Bahraich district which is about 184 kms from the capital city of Lucknow. Development of Land Port Rupaidiha was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on 20th December 2018. The Land Port is spread over a total area of 144 acres with a build-up area of 22,575 square meters and has been built at a total cost of approximately Rs. 200 Crores.

The Port has state-of-art infrastructure facilities that will streamline and expedite the movement of goods and passengers across the border, easing trade processes and promoting economic growth.

In addition to the inauguration of these Land Ports, a ground-breaking ceremony for the development of Land Ports at Sonauli (India) and Bhairahawa (Nepal) was also performed by both the Prime Ministers.

Land Port Sonauli is located in the district of Maharajganj in the state of Uttar Pradesh, along the international border between India and Nepal. Sonauli-Bhairahawa is an important crossing point for domestic and international tourists, owing to its proximity to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The strategic location of the Land Port makes it an important access point for pilgrims and tourists visiting Lumbini, promoting religious tourism and cultural exchanges between India and Nepal.





## Inauguration of Land Port Rupaidiha







## Ground Breaking Ceremony of **Land Port Sonauli**





## Strengthening Collaboration: MoU Signed Between LPAI and IIM Ahmedabad

In a significant step towards fostering innovation and excellence in the realm of logistics and port management, LPAI and the esteemed Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) have joined hands through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This landmark agreement aims to leverage the collective expertise of both organizations to drive forward advancements in the functioning and strategic development of land ports across the country.

including streamlining operations, enhancing efficiency, and optimizing resource utilization. It paves the way for knowledge exchange, research collaboration, and the implementation of cutting-edge solutions in port management. IIM Ahmedabad, renowned for its academic rigor and innovative thinking, brings a wealth of research capabilities and a proven track record of providing insightful solutions to real-world business challenges. We are hopeful that this partnership will open up avenues for conducting joint research projects, organizing workshops, and designing specialized training programs tailored to the unique needs of land port management.





## Empowering Safety Measures: MoU Inked Between LPAI and National Fire Service College, Nagpur

LPAI has taken a significant step towards enhancing safety protocols at land ports by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Fire Service College (NFSC), Nagpur, Maharashtra. This collaboration aims to fortify the preparedness and response mechanism in the event of emergencies or incidents at land ports.

The MoU heralds an era of specialized training and knowledge exchange between the two organizations. NFSC, with its expertise in fire safety and disaster management, will play a pivotal role in imparting critical skills to LPAI personnel. This partnership is a testimony to LPAI's unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and security of land port facilities, contributing to smoother operations and safeguarding the well-being of all stakeholders involved.



## Streamlining Travel: Inauguration of “Yatri Subidha” Portal at Land Port Petrapole

In a significant stride towards enhancing passenger convenience and expediting clearance procedures, LPAI and the West Bengal IT Department joined hands to launch the “Yatri Subidha” portal on August 3rd, 2023, at Land Port Petrapole.

This innovative portal revolutionizes the way international passengers navigate through the Passenger Terminal. It empowers travellers to reserve specific time slots, ensuring a seamless and efficient clearance process. Through the user-friendly interface, passengers can effortlessly select their preferred date and slot. Subsequently, a Pass and a

link/QR code are generated, which are promptly dispatched to the user’s registered mobile number and email.

The “Yatri Subidha” portal stands as a beacon of collaboration between LPAI and the West Bengal IT Department, dedicated to optimizing the travel experience for passengers. By allowing individuals to plan their journeys with precision and convenience, this initiative is set to reduce wait times and enhance overall satisfaction. This forward-looking venture is poised to set a new standard in passenger facilitation, exemplifying LPAI’s commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of travel experiences. With the “Yatri Subidha” portal, Land Port Petrapole takes a significant leap towards a more efficient and traveller-friendly future.





## II. Recent Activities

### Land Port Petrapole Witnesses Historic Visit of Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister

On 9th May 2023, Land Port Petrapole was honored to welcome Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Government of India. This momentous visit marked a significant milestone for the port, as it witnessed the Foundation Stone Laying of 'Maitri Dwaar', alongside the inauguration of a Police Station and Hostel Building. The event was graced by an illustrious gathering, including the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nishith Pramanik, Union Minister for Ports, Shri Shantanu Thakur and the Director General of Border Security Force.

Maitri Dwaar, the proposed second cargo gate at Land Port Petrapole will be developed as a joint gate on zero line along the India-Bangladesh border. This project marks a significant step towards enhancing the bilateral trade relations between India and Bangladesh, which will ultimately benefit the economies of both the countries. Currently, the daily cross-border traffic movement at Land Port Petrapole is around 600-700 trucks per day, which often leads to delays and congestion. To ease and streamline this daily traffic movement, the proposal to establish a common second cargo gate was conceptualized. The primary aim of this project is to speed up the release/clearance of goods at the border, which will benefit both Indian and Bangladeshi traders.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister also inaugurated the new Police Station building, which will provide requisite

services for state security forces. The 3-storeyed RCC Structure with a total build-up area of 1670 sqm has been built at an approximate cost of INR 7 Cr. The building features a Police Station at the Ground Floor level and accommodation for Male & Female Police Staff on separate floors. It is equipped with Passenger Lifts, Central Air-conditioning, and Fire-fighting system. Additionally, the police station has bike and car parking inside the compound area.

Honourable Minister also inaugurated a new Hostel Accommodation facility for LPAI stakeholders, including Customs, Bureau of Immigration, Plant and Animal Quarantine Cell Officers, Health Officers, and more. The Hostel Accommodation is a 3-storeyed building with a total area of 637.5 square meters and features 34 rooms with a combination of triple shared occupancy and double occupancy. Each room is well-appointed with a 2- & 3-seater sofa, a bedside table, a dining table with chairs, and a study table. In addition to the rooms, the Hostel Building also has a common dining area that can accommodate 20-25 people, a recreational room, and a multipurpose room. These facilities have been designed to provide our stakeholders with the opportunity to relax and unwind after a hard day's work.

The inauguration of the Police Station and Hostel Building further reinforces the government's dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of all stakeholders associated with Land Port Petrapole. This strategic addition is set to enhance security measures, providing a conducive environment for trade and travel activities.





Honorable Union Home Minister  
Shri. Amit Shah visited  
**Land Port Petrapole**





## Union Finance Minister visits Land Port Srimantapur

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman undertook a significant visit to the Land Port at Srimantapur on 22nd July 2023. Chairman, LPAI provided an insightful overview of the Port's multimodal operational facilities and highlighted upcoming connectivity initiatives which are poised to position Tripura as a pivotal gateway hub for the Northeast

region of India, facilitating enhanced trade and connectivity.

Minister Sitharaman engaged in constructive discussions with officials regarding the Land Port's facilities, passenger movements, and trade dynamics between India and Bangladesh. She also conducted a thorough inspection of the newly constructed jetty along the Gomati River, which stands as a crucial infrastructure for cross-border activities.





## Annual Summer Internship Program 2023

LPAI concluded its highly successful Annual Summer Internship Program for the year 2023. This initiative provided a valuable platform for budding professionals to immerse themselves in the dynamic realm of land port management. We had seven interns this summer: Kanak Mohiley- O.P. Jindal Global University; Kartik Kumar- BML Munjal University; Bhuvan Gogrot- IIT, Guwahati; Divansh Bhambry- JIMS; Mohd. Sadiq- Chikkana Government Arts College; Ravindra Ram-IIT, Guwahati and Bhavnish Gupta, Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal, Karnataka.

Over the course of two months, the interns were actively engaged in a spectrum of activities, gaining practical insights into the operations and challenges faced by the

organization. One of the highlights of the program was the immersive field visits, where interns had the opportunity to witness functioning of various land ports across the country. This hands-on experience not only enriched their understanding but also exposed them to the intricate details of port operations. Additionally, each intern was paired with a dedicated mentor, a seasoned professional in the field, who provided guidance, support, and a wealth of knowledge throughout their tenure.

This mentorship aspect proved to be instrumental in nurturing the interns' growth and fostering a deeper understanding of the nuances of land port management. The program's resounding success underscores LPAI's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders in the field of logistics and port management.





## Interns Field visits At different Land Ports





## Release of LPAI Report “Strengthening Border Connectivity at India-Myanmar Border” and Panel Discussion on India-Myanmar Connectivity

LPAI released its latest report “Strengthening Border Connectivity at India-Myanmar Border” and hosted a Panel Discussion on India-Myanmar Connectivity on 14th July 2023 at India International Centre, New Delhi. Shri Prabhat Kumar IFS, Special Secretary (ER and DPA), Ministry of External Affairs was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his welcome address, Chairman LPAI, Shri Aditya Mishra emphasized the importance of strengthening trade and connectivity between India and Myanmar and elucidated how Land Port Moreh has played a critical role in facilitating trade across the border. He also mentioned the significance of road infrastructure and related projects, particularly the Trilateral Highway, in boosting economy in Northeast India and improving bilateral relations with ASEAN countries.

Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS presented the key findings of the report titled “Strengthening Border Connectivity at India-Myanmar Border”. The Report sheds light on the economic principles underlying the Moreh border development and offers new ideas on how its potential can be better exploited in view of the upcoming connectivity projects. It identifies the constraints, challenges and bottlenecks at the India-Myanmar border and recommends policy measures to augment the border connectivity for LPAI and other central and state agencies.

The Chief Guest, Shri Prabhat Kumar, complimented LPAI for the excellent work done by the organization in building infrastructure for facilitation of India’s land borders. He praised LPAI for the crucial role it has played in facilitating safe and seamless cross-border movement of trade and passengers through land ports. He also emphasized the importance of Myanmar in the framework of India’s Act East and Neighborhood First policies and described the plethora of connectivity initiatives the Government of India is implementing to improve regional integration with the Southeast Asian bloc.

This was followed by an enriching panel discussion which was chaired by Amb. Gurjit Singh, Professor, IIT Indore, and Former Ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia, ASEAN and the African Union. The panelists included Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, Shillong; Mr. Afaq Hussain, Director, Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic, Fundamentals (BRIEF), New Delhi; Dr. Monish Tourangbam, Honorary Director, Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies (KIIPS) and Ms. Cchavi Vasisht, Research Associate, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi.

The concluding remarks were given by Shri Satish Kumar Sivan, Joint Secretary (DPA-III), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India who shed light on the status of the connectivity projects between India and ASEAN and how it is expected to strengthen India-Myanmar trade and connectivity.





## Release of LPAI Report: Strengthening Border Connectivity at India-Myanmar Border







### III. Training Initiatives

#### **LPAI-IIFT Training Program on Land Port Management: Best Practices and Strategies for Effective Operations and Performance Measurement**

In a bid to revolutionize land port operations, LPAI joined hands with the esteemed Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) for a Short Duration Customized Training Program on 'Land Port Management: Best Practices and Strategies for Effective Operations and Performance Measurement'. Held from June 12 to 16, 2023, this initiative focused on cultivating best practices and strategic methodologies for optimizing land port operations and performance evaluation.

The program's curriculum was meticulously tailored to address the specific challenges faced by LPAI. From comprehending the intricacies of the National Logistic Policy to delving into the basics of port management and logistics, each session was designed to offer practical insights and applicable knowledge. The program laid particular emphasis on integrating state-of-the-art technologies into land port management. Participants were introduced to advanced cargo tracking systems and data analytics techniques for performance measurement. Such tools are poised to revolutionize operations and decision-making

processes, ushering in a new era of efficiency.

The training adopted an experiential approach, enabling participants to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios. A highlight was the field visit to Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management, offering invaluable insights into on-ground operations. This practical exposure bridged the gap between theory and practice, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding.

A pivotal component of the program focused on performance measurement and evaluation. Participants were introduced to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and benchmarking techniques specific to land port operations. The knowledge and skills acquired during the program are poised to have a profound impact on the efficiency and competitiveness of Indian land ports.

By adopting international best practices and leveraging technology driven solutions, LPAI believes that it can unlock new avenues for economic growth and strengthen the position of Land Ports in the global supply chain ecosystem.



## IIFT – Training Programme

Best Practices & Strategies for Effective Operations & Performance Measurement for LPAI.





## Enhancing Skills: LPAI Hosts Workshop on Communication, Soft Skills, and Computer Literacy

On 17th May 2023, LPAI organized a four-hour workshop focused on Communication, Soft Skills, and Computer Literacy. This bespoke training session, organized in collaboration with SKLZ TECT LLP, aimed to equip participants with the essential tools and knowledge to excel in their professional roles within the complex realm of land port management.

The workshop commenced with an invigorating session on Communication Skills. Experts from SKLZ TECT LLP delved into the nuances of effective verbal and written communication, emphasizing the importance of clarity and precision in a multifaceted work environment. Participants engaged in interactive exercises, gaining practical insights into how enhanced communication abilities can streamline operations and foster productive collaborations.

The workshop provided a comprehensive overview of essential soft skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, time management, and adaptability.

A pivotal aspect of the workshop was the segment dedicated to Computer Literacy. In an era dominated by technological advancements, proficiency in digital tools is imperative for operational efficiency. SKLZ TECT LLP experts guided participants through practical exercises designed to enhance their proficiency in commonly used software and applications. This segment served as a bridge to empower participants with the skills needed to leverage technology for streamlined processes and data-driven decision-making.

Through such workshops, LPAI aims to not only up-skill its workforce but also strengthen the overall operational capacity of land ports across the nation.





**Training on Communication & soft skill**  
LPAI experienced the most interactive and useful communication and soft skill training.





## LPAI Organized a Five-Day Tally Software Training

In its relentless commitment to enhancing the skill set of its staff and employees, LPAI organized a comprehensive training program focused on the fundamentals of Tally software from 31st July to 4th August 2023. This five-day training initiative, conducted by Saraswati Accountants Software Pvt Ltd., marked a significant step toward equipping LPAI professionals with the tools and knowledge to excel in the digital age.

The training program covered a wide range of topics and practical exercises. Participants were taken on a journey from the basics to advanced features of the software, enabling them to effectively use Tally in their daily work. The curriculum included hands-on exercises, real-world scenarios, and tips and tricks to streamline accounting processes.

By empowering professionals with the knowledge of Tally software, LPAI intends to not only enhance their individual capabilities but also make a significant contribution to the efficiency and accuracy of financial management in land ports across India.

The training program received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants. Many expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to acquire this valuable skill, which they believed would not only boost their career prospects but also make a substantial difference in the way LPAI handles its financial matters.

In light of this success, LPAI is actively considering more initiatives to bridge the digital divide in the accounting and finance sector. Plans are underway to offer advanced Tally training, as well as explore additional software tools that can further optimize financial management processes.





## **TALLY-Training Programme**

LPAI initiates a 5-day training on Basics of Tally Software at its HQ.

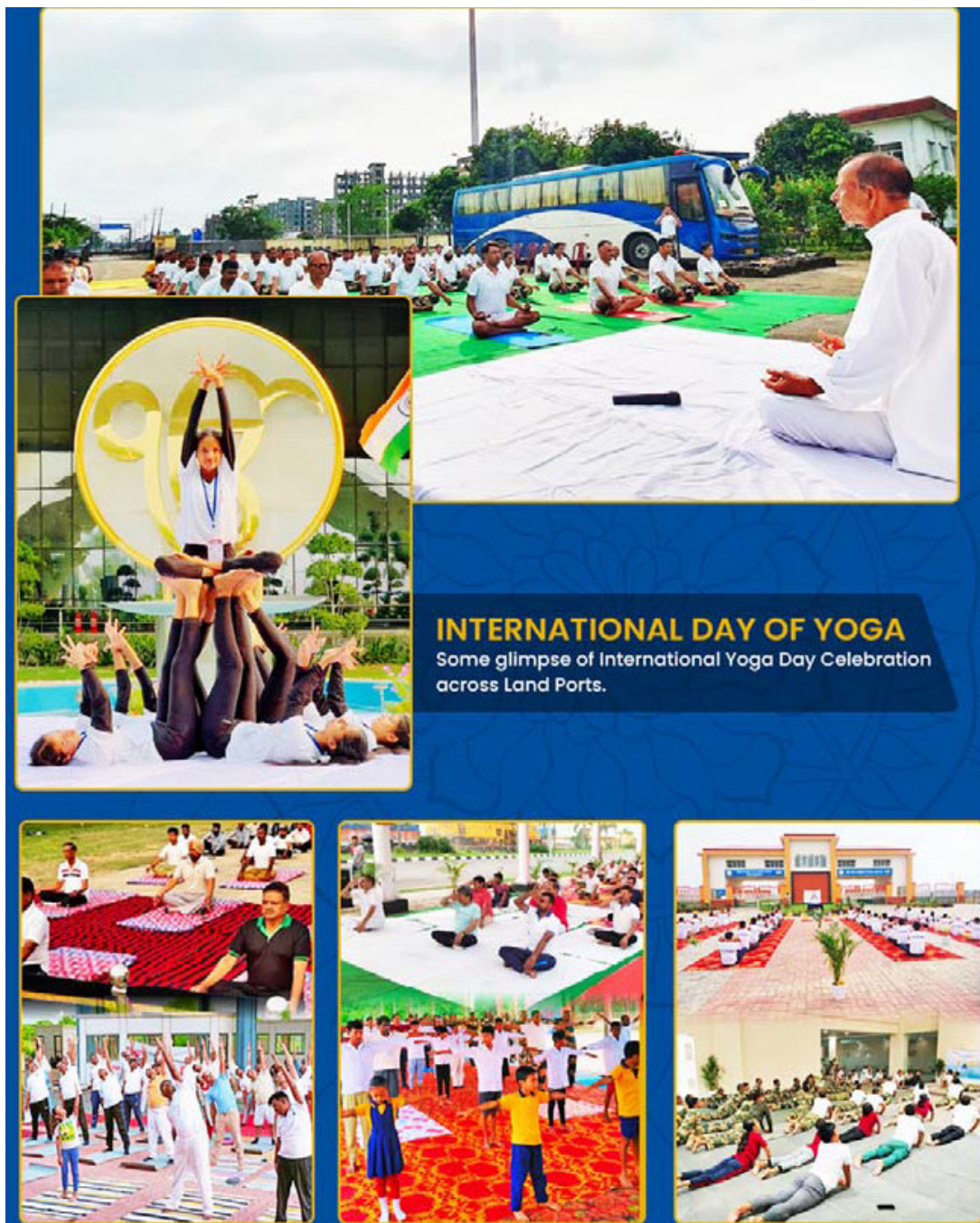




## IV. Yoga Day Celebrations

On the occasion of International Yoga Day on 21st June 2023, land ports across India were imbued with a vibrant spirit of well-being and unity. Enthusiastic participants, across all stakeholder departments, gathered together to partake in yoga sessions that celebrated the ancient practice's holistic benefits.

The atmosphere was charged with positivity and camaraderie, as individuals from diverse backgrounds joined together in unison. Under the open sky, amidst the hustle and bustle of trade and travel, the land ports transformed into sanctuaries of peace and mindfulness.





## V. Independence Day Celebrations

Land ports across India celebrated the 77th Independence Day with great fervour and patriotism. The spirit of freedom echoed through the port facilities as staff and officials came together to honour the nation's legacy. The celebrations were marked by flag hoisting ceremonies, cultural performances, and

patriotic fervour. These moments captured the unity and dedication of land port communities towards upholding the values of independence and progress. Attached are glimpses of the heart-warming celebrations that unfolded at the ports.







Celebrated **HAR GHAR TRINGA**,  
and some other Activities  
**At all Land Ports**







Land Ports  
Authority of India  
Systematic Seamless Secure

## Our Presence on Social Media



### EDITORIAL TEAM



**Shri Aditya Mishra**  
Chairman LPAI



**Smt. Rekha Raikar Kumar**  
Member (Finance), LPAI



**Dr. Samridhi Bimal**  
Manager, EY

### LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Ministry of Home Affairs  
Department of Border Management

📍 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan,  
Khan Market, New Delhi-110511

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