November 16, 2026

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

Seven activities in major port limits need prior written permission

S.O. 6242(E) of November 16, 2026, under section 21 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025, covers anchoring in channels, bunkering, hot works, dredging and more.

NO PERSON SHALL CARRY out any of seven listed activities within the limits of a major port except with the prior written permission of the conservator or harbour master of that port. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways set this in notification S.O. 6242(E), dated November 16, 2026, which specifies restrictions on activities that may cause impediments to navigation within the limits of major ports.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

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Notification S.O. 6242(E)

Seven activities in major port limits need prior written permission

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No person shall carry out any of seven listed activities within the limits of a major port except with the prior written permission of the conservator or harbour master of that port. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways set this in notification S.O. 6242(E), dated November 16, 2026, which specifies restrictions on activities that may cause impediments to navigation within the limits of major ports.

The seven activities are: anchoring, drifting or mooring in channels, turning circles, fairways or restricted navigation zones, except in an emergency with immediate reporting to the vessel traffic service or Port Control; vessel to vessel cargo operations, bunkering or transfer of hazardous materials outside designated areas; maintenance, repair or operational activities that immobilize a vessel or reduce maneuverability, including hot works, underwater inspections, hull cleaning or machinery trials; port works, dredging, construction, diving or underwater works in navigable waters; fishing, net deployment or floating gear that may obstruct or endanger vessel movement; operating any vessel or aerial craft in operational areas or restricted navigation zones where it may cause impediment to navigation; and any act that releases floating objects or debris that may endanger safe navigation. The table gives each in the notification's words.

A "restricted navigation zone" means any area identified by the Authority (as defined in section 2(1)(b)(i) of the Act), the conservator or the vessel traffic service where entry, anchoring or operations are regulated in the interest of navigational safety.

The notification is made under section 21 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025 (27 of 2025). It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 6002, dated November 16, 2026 (CG-DL-E-17112026-277968), and is signed by Praveen P. Nair, Joint Secretary, under F. No. PD-24015/18/2026-PD-1/E-383490. It doesn't state a start date or how to apply for the permission.

Issued by	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Document	Notification S.O. 6242(E)
Dated	November 16, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 6002, November 16, 2026 (CG-DL-E-17112026-277968)
Legal basis	Section 21, Indian Ports Act, 2025 (27 of 2025)
Applies to	Activities within the limits of major ports

Permission from	The conservator or harbour master of the major port, in writing and in advance
Activities listed	Seven
Takes effect	Not stated
Signed by	Praveen P. Nair, Joint Secretary
File number	F. No. PD-24015/18/2026-PD-1/E-383490

The seven restricted activities

No.	Activity, in the notification's words
(1)	anchoring, drifting or mooring in navigational channels, approach channels, turning circles, fairways or in any restricted navigation zone except in the case of an emergency involving an imminent threat to life, the environment, or port property with immediate reporting to the vessel traffic service or Port Control
(2)	vessel to vessel cargo operations, bunkering or transfer of hazardous materials except in areas designated for such operations
(3)	maintenance, repair or operational activities that immobilise a vessel or reduce maneuverability including hot works, underwater inspections, hull cleaning or machinery trials
(4)	port works, capital or maintenance works, dredging, construction, diving or underwater works in navigable waters
(5)	fishing activity, net deployment or placement of floating gear that may obstruct or endanger vessel movement
(6)	operation of any vessel or aerial craft in operational areas or restricted navigation zones, where such operation may cause impediment to the navigation
(7)	any act resulting in the release or drifting of floating objects or debris that may endanger safe navigation

The notification (PDF, 452 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 6002, November 16, 2026 (CG-DL-E-17112026-277968).

Checked against the official copy on November 21, 2026.

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