



## VPPL Launches Skilling Program to Empower Youth of Vadhvan

**Mumbai, December 16, 2024:** Vadhvan Port Project Ltd. (VPPL), the 13th major port of India, has announced the launch of the Vadhvan Port Skilling Program, aimed at equipping the youth of the region with essential skills for the employment sector in varied sectors on Monday, December 16, 2024. The event commenced with an MoU signing between JNPA (one of the major stakeholders in VPPL) and the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) for providing skill development training to the locals and project-affected people in the Vadhvan region through selected Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs).

This MoU aims to empower local candidates from the Vadhvan Port area by providing recognized maritime qualifications in GP Rating and Certificate in Maritime Catering, enabling them to pursue careers as seafarers. Supported through JNPA's CSR funding, with an estimated cost of ₹2-3 lakhs per candidate, the initiative will cover training fees, accommodation, and boarding. Collaborating with DG Shipping and Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs), the program ensures high-quality training, including shipboard experience, to create sustainable career pathways in the maritime sector while contributing to India's growing seafaring workforce.

Another MoU was also signed between VPPL and the Dye Makers Association at Vadhvan to provide exclusive branding opportunities to the Dye-Makers Association through various means including allocation of prominent exhibition space for their advertising and promotional materials. These opportunities will be available at key events and exhibitions where VPPL participates, ensuring heightened visibility and engagement for the Association within the industry.

To support dye makers, JNPA, in collaboration with the Union Bank of India, proposes a cluster-specific scheme with a concessional rate of interest and an attractive interest subvention scheme to provide low-cost funding, enabling artisans to invest in better machinery and scale up their businesses. Additionally, initiatives will focus on technology upgradation through training programs on automation, AI, and advanced tools like AutoCAD and CNC machines to enhance productivity and competitiveness. Efforts will also be made to improve market access by creating platforms for branding and direct market connections, reducing dependency on middlemen and unlocking global opportunities. Social security measures include education programs, improved healthcare facilities, and comprehensive insurance plans—accidental, term, and health coverage—with premiums fully borne by JNPA under a triple insurance benefits scheme. Furthermore, infrastructure development will be prioritized, with enhanced road connectivity and consistent electricity supply to ensure uninterrupted operations.



The first initiative under this program, an '**Orientation Program for Customs Documentation,**' is launched marking a significant step toward enhancing job readiness among the local youth. For this program the letter is awarded to BCBA - Brihanmumbai Custom Brokers Association. Eligible students will further get internship opportunities.

Speaking about the initiative, Shri Unmesh Sharad Wagh, IRS, Chairman and Managing Director, VPPL, and Chairman, JNPA, stated, *"The signing of important Memorandums of Understanding and the start of the Vadhvan Port Skilling Program represent an enormous step in achieving our goal of inclusive growth and community empowerment. These programs demonstrate our dedication to establishing long-term employment possibilities and promoting economic growth in the Vadhvan area, from giving youth skills as per their needs to providing branding, finance, and advanced training to dye manufacturers. Building a future where opportunities are available to everyone and development is shared is our ultimate goal."*

To ensure the initiative effectively reaches the youth of Vadhvan, JNPA previously launched a **dedicated WhatsApp Chatbot** in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. This interactive tool is designed to provide comprehensive information on the Vadhvan Port Skilling Program and updates about the Vadhvan Port. With the potential to create **12 lakh employment opportunities**, this monumental project underscores JNPA's commitment to community development and economic upliftment.

The skilling program encompasses **18 diverse courses**, with additional options for participants to indicate their preferences for other relevant areas of training. This inclusive approach ensures the program caters to the aspirations and career goals of a wide demographic.

JNPA and VPPL will also be signing an MoU with Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth for developing and implementing an integrated agricultural and horticulture plan for the selected villages in Dahanu and Palghar taluka of Palghar district as a part of the welfare activities for locals in and around greenfield Vadhvan port project.

Also, the Fishermen's Compensation Policy is being designed to support the fishermen community aligning with the guidelines of the Government of Maharashtra. Also, approximately ₹300 crores is allocated for the construction of two fishing harbours. The Fishermen's Compensation Policy demonstrates our commitment to the welfare of the community alongside infrastructure development.

Training is also ongoing for heavy vehicle driving and mechanics in partnership with NGOs. As



part of this initiative, skilled drivers are undergoing rigorous training, earning their licenses, and securing local job opportunities

As Vadhvan Port progresses toward its vision of becoming a world-class port, VPPL continues to prioritise community empowerment through innovative initiatives like the Vadhvan Port Skilling Program.

### **About VPPL:**

Situated in Palghar district, near Dahanu, Maharashtra, Vadhvan Port is set to become India's 13th major and largest container port. It is being developed under a landlord model with terminals built through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). The project received cabinet approval on June 19, 2024, with construction in two phases.

Strategically located with seamless connectivity to major hinterlands, the port's all-weather design and deep draft make it crucial for boosting India's maritime economy under the Sagarmala initiative.

Vadhvan is committed to being a 100% green port, incorporating sustainable and eco-friendly practices in its operations since its inception.

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