Union Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS)

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News

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi on 28 Oct 2026 approved the ₹10,000 crore 'Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme' (CMPS), valid till FY 2039–40. Announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, it aims to make shipping containers (steel boxes) of global shipping standard in India and cut import dependence. The target is to raise annual capacity about tenfold, to 7.5 lakh TEU. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefed on the Cabinet decision.

Key facts

Approval	28 Oct 2026 – Union Cabinet; valid till 2039–40
Outlay	₹10,000 crore – incl. operational expenditure assistance ₹8,891 cr; interest subvention ₹859 cr; testing & certification ₹150 cr
Interest subvention	3% a year on term loans for greenfield / brownfield units
Target	7.5 lakh TEU a year (about tenfold rise)
Jobs	~3,000 direct, 50,000+ indirect
Eligible units	New unit – at least 1 lakh TEU; expansion – at least 25,000 TEU added

Background

- History: the modern intermodal shipping container was introduced by US businessman Malcom McLean – in 1956 the ship 'Ideal X' carried containers from Newark to Houston. ISO standard sizes are 20 ft and 40 ft; one 20-ft box = 1 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit).
- Science: containers are mostly made of 'Cor-Ten' weathering steel – a stable oxide layer on its surface stops further rusting. Ancillary industries such as corner castings, special steel, wooden floors and paints will also grow.
- Precursor: the first 'Made-in-India' EXIM container prototype was unveiled on 3 July 2026 at the Maersk–CONCOR Inland Container Depot, Dadri (Uttar Pradesh); it meets ISO specifications and the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC, 1972). It was unveiled by Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Maritime economy: Sept 2025 shipbuilding package of ₹69,725 crore – Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme, Maritime Development Fund and Shipbuilding Development Scheme. Vizhinjam (Kerala) is India's first deep-water container transshipment port, dedicated to the nation on 2 May 2025.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai Port, Kamarajar Port (Ennore), Kattupalli Port and V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Thoothukudi, are key container hubs on the east coast. VOC Port's Tuticorin International Container Terminal was declared a 'Green Terminal' in Oct 2026 for 100% electrification. More domestic container output will ease empty-container shortages for Tamil Nadu exporters.

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