

## Gadkari says India on cusp of waterways revolution

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WATERWAYS TRANSPORT in India is all set for a revolution and has potential to bring down logistics cost by 4 per cent that will propel exports by 30 per cent, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said Thursday kicking off PSU Concor's maiden containers voyage through coastal shipping.

The Road Transport and Shipping Transport Minister said many firsts in the country were lined up as massive works were underway on projects for turning 11 rivers into waterways besides pilot run of aeroboats on Ganga on January 26.

Launching Container Corporation of India's (Concor) first-ever container transport through coastal shipping from Kandla to Tuticorin port via Mangalore and Cochin through video conferencing here, the minister recalled how people used to laugh at his dream of developing waterways and running cargo ships on the river Ganga.

"Now we have paved the way for exports to Bangladesh and Myanmar through Varanasi...If we reduce our logistics cost by just 4 per cent then our exports will boost by 25-30 per cent...We are one of the fastest growing economies and we have the potential to do it," Gadkari added.